



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
30 TRINITY STREET - 4th Floor
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(860) 509-6405 Telephone
(860) 509-6495 Fax

DEBORAH DEL PRETE SULLIVAN
LEGAL COUNSEL/
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER
deborah.d.sullivan@jud.ct.gov

**Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan,
Legal Counsel/Executive Assistant Public Defender
Office of Chief Public Defender
Raised Bill No. 5877, An Act Concerning Terms of Probation
Public Hearing - March 12, 2008**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports this proposed legislation which permits the sentencing judge to exercise his/her discretion to depart from the current probation terms which may be imposed upon a conviction for certain felonies and misdemeanors. In addition, the legislation requires that a report be prepared by the probation officer and provided to the sentencing court as to the probationer's compliance and the necessity for continuing the probation and any conditions originally imposed. Upon a positive recommendation from the probation officer, the court in its discretion can order that probation continue pursuant to the original term imposed or be terminated.

The proposal recognizes that there may be persons released on probation after a period of incarceration, especially if lengthy, may not need to comply with the same conditions, (i.e. programs and program completion, counseling, restitution) as originally imposed at sentencing. The termination of probation for persons who, in the discretion of the court, do not need to be supervised on probation and who are in compliance with their conditions of probation, may save resources and provide probation supervision for more serious offenders who require such.