



State of Connecticut

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**Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan,
Legal Counsel/Executive Assistant Public Defender
Office of Chief Public Defender
Raised Bill No. 5914 - An Act Concerning Programs and Services for
Female Inmates and Ex-Offenders
Public Hearing - March 12, 2008**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports this proposed legislation which would provide an unspecified amount of funding to the Department of Corrections and the Judicial Department for the provision of "gender specific diversionary and reentry programs" for female inmates and female offenders who are released. It is believed that the intent of this proposed legislation is to increase those gender specific services which currently exist and which are tailored to meet the needs of a female offender and/or to create new or more gender specific services which would be tailored to the needs of the female offender, either while incarcerated and upon reentry to the community.

Providing additional and more effective gender specific programs to female offenders will assist in preparing them to handle difficulties they may face as they attempt to comply with probation conditions including counseling, obtain employment and housing, reunite with their families and overall strengthen and empower themselves to make better decisions and not recidivate.