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. 5919 - An Act Concerning Access to Police Reports and Witness Statements***
**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 20, 2008**

While not opposed to the bill as drafted in its entirety, the Office of Chief Public Defender is concerned that the additional language inserted in lines 11 through 13 may be misinterpreted and lead to an unintended consequence wherein the Division of Public Defender Services could be denied certain documents it is entitled to. Therefore, this office requests that qualifying language be inserted at the end of line 13 as follows:

> *except that nothing in this bill will in any way limit the discovery of materials by the accused in a criminal case as provided the rules of discovery or law;*

It is believed that this language will eliminate the concern this office has with the language as currently drafted.