



State of Connecticut

## **DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

**OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

30 TRINITY STREET - 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. 36**

***An Act Concerning Eviction for Illegal Drug or Firearm Sales or Possession***

**Judiciary Committee  
March 3, 2008 - Public Hearing**

The Office of Chief Public Defender does not support this legislation as it has concerns that the bill as drafted has broader ramifications than may be intended. This bill as proposed would void any tenancy upon a person's conviction of sale or possession of a narcotic or a firearm. The bill as drafted would void a tenancy even if the person was convicted of sale or possession of a narcotic or a firearm in a location separate and distinct from the premises which are the subject of the lease, contract or rental agreement.

In addition, voiding a lease, contract or rental agreement would not only impact upon the person convicted but also upon his/her spouse, children, other family members and/or roommate(s). Another issue that is implicated in this proposed legislation is the impact upon a co-lessee or co-tenant who may have an interest in the property and who has not violated any law.

For these reasons, the Office of Chief Public Defender would not support this proposed legislation.