



State of Connecticut

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan,
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*Raised Bill No. 237- An Act Concerning the
Statute of Limitations for Crimes Associated With Homicide*

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 3, 2010

The Office of Chief Public Defender opposes *Raised Bill No. 237, An Act Concerning the Statute of Limitations for Crimes Associated with Homicide*. Consistent with its position in the past, the Office of Chief Public Defender would urge this committee not to support this legislation which would eliminate the statute of limitations for persons who commit "any offense committed with the intent to prevent, hinder or delay the discovery or apprehension of, or the lodging of a criminal charge against, another person for the commission of a capital felony or a violation of section 53a-54a (*murder*), 54a-54c (*felony murder*) or 53a-54d (*arson murder*)."

The concern is that without any limitation period, evidence may be unable to be located, destroyed or may deteriorate. In addition, memories of witnesses fade and sometimes no longer exist. It may be difficult or impossible to locate witnesses who may have moved or are deceased. Without any finite period of time within which a prosecution can be brought, it may be impossible for an innocent person to fairly defend him/herself.

In order to provide for the rights of the defendant to notice, due process and a fair trial, the statute of limitations should not be extended beyond the already lengthy time period. The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this committee not to support this proposal.