

Department of Correction

Testimony of Leo C. Arnone, Commissioner

Judiciary Committee

Raised Bill No. 6313, *An Act Concerning Intensive Probation Supervision*

February 23, 2011

Good afternoon, Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Leo Arnone, Commissioner of the Department of Correction (DOC). I am here this afternoon to speak in support of Raised Bill No. 6313, *An Act Concerning Intensive Probation Supervision*.

Passage of Raised Bill No. 6313 would provide additional opportunities for the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch to place and manage offenders in the community with appropriate services without jeopardizing public safety. By targeting three specific populations - pre trial detainees, offenders for whom there is an agreed upon plea agreement that includes a term of incarceration of two years or less and incarcerated offenders serving two years or less and identified by the DOC as having completed at least 90 days of their sentence and being in compliance with institutional rules and necessary treatment programs – the potential to reduce the DOC inmate population is significant.

The DOC is encouraged by the CSSD's number of offenders in the potential diversion pools, which would result in offenders being given priority access to outpatient and substance abuse and wrap around services, fewer offenders coming into the correctional system and offenders being released due to sentence modifications. The DOC looks forward to collaborating with CSSD to screen and identify appropriate offenders for these programs that are estimated to save 1,155 jail/prison beds once fully implemented and which could result in the closure of a facility.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this matter.