

Department of Correction

Testimony of Leo C. Arnone, Commissioner

Judiciary Committee

Raised Bill No. 6596, *An Act Establishing Advisory Committees to the Department of Correction in Certain Municipalities*

March 21, 2011

Good morning, Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Leo Arnone, Commissioner of the Department of Correction. I am here this morning to speak in support of Raised Bill No. 6596, *An Act Establishing Advisory Committees to the Department of Correction in Certain Municipalities*.

Raised Bill No. 6596 would provide the residents of Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven -- municipalities that host a correctional facility but do not have established public safety committees-- with a voice to express concerns about the correctional system and the inmate population. Regular meetings between representatives of the community and the facility warden to discuss inmate population, agency policies and procedures, facility programming, reentry initiatives and other issues, will help develop and maintain a collaborative partnership that will benefit both the facility and community.

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