

April 1, 2011

Senator Eric Coleman, Co-Chair  
Representative Gerald M. Fox, Co-Chair  
Members of the Judiciary Committee

**Testimony Regarding Senate Bill No. 1164**

I have come today to give testimony so that "Raise the Age" occurs as planned. It is my understanding that, in Connecticut, youth offenders who are 16 years of age and younger are served by the Bureau of Juvenile Services and those over the age of 16 are served by the Department of Corrections.

The DCF Bureau of Juvenile Services protects public safety by offering a continuum of effective prevention, treatment and transitional services to youthful offenders. At the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, a secure facility, these services are offered regularly and include individual, family and group therapy, recreation therapy, aggression replacement training, substance abuse treatment and behavior therapy. Unfortunately, this type of intense treatment designed specifically for adolescents is not offered by the Department of Corrections.

I request that you please do not delay the Raise the Age Legislation. Young people can only lead productive lives when they have been given the tools to do so. Please give the 17 year olds in Connecticut the opportunity to access effective treatment within a secure setting. Please do not allow these youth to simply "do time".

Thank you for your consideration.

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