



State of Connecticut

## **DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

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**Testimony of**  
**Deborah Del Prete Sullivan**  
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**Raised Bill No. 1236**  
**An Act Concerning the Penalty for the Sexual Assault of a Minor**

**Public Hearing - Judiciary Committee**  
**April 4, 2011**

The Office of Chief Public Defender opposes Raised Bill No. 1236, An Act Concerning the Penalty for the Sexual Assault of a Minor. As drafted, this bill would enhance the penalty for violation of C.G.S. §53a-70c, *Aggravated Sexual Assault of a minor: Class A felony* to a life sentence without the possibility of release. Current law already provides for a mandatory sentence of 25 years for a first offense and a mandatory sentence of 50 years for a subsequent offense.

This Office is concerned that if the bill passes, a substantial increase in resources will be necessary to comply with the required hearings. Currently, anyone charged with a criminal offense for which death or life imprisonment is the penalty is entitled to a probable cause hearing before the case can proceed. C.G.S. §54-46a, *Probable cause hearing for persons charged with crimes punishable by death or life imprisonment*. If this bill were to pass, more resources would be needed for this Office to provide legal representation to those so charged.

In conclusion, this Office requests that the Committee reject this bill.