



***Division of Public Defender Services
State of Connecticut***

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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
FEBURARY 13, 2013

TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINE RAPILLO
DIRECTOR OF DELINQUENCY DEFENSE AND CHILD PROTECTION
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

**Raised Bill 5516, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REMOVAL OF INDIVIDUALS FROM THE
STATE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY.**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports passage of *Raised Bill 5516, An Act Concerning the Removal of Individuals from the State Child Abuse and Neglect Registry.* This proposal creates a process for people to petition to have their names removed from the state child abuse registry five years after being placed on the registry. The process proposed provides registrants an opportunity to show personal rehabilitation or changes in circumstances that no longer require that they be restricted in their access to children. Being placed on the Child Abuse Registry has significant negative consequences for people. Placement on the registry can impact educational opportunities and employment options, even when those activities do not directly involve contact with children. Individuals on the registry cannot be involved with a child in DCF care and their presence in a home often results in the home being found unfit for licensing as a relative foster home. This proposal provides due process to the applicant while giving the Commissioner enough discretion to ensure that children will remain safe. The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this committee to report favorably on this proposed bill.