State of Connecticut

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Testimony of
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Raised Bill No. 1143
An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing - March 22, 2013

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports Raised *Bill 1143, An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information.* The proposed language would amend C.G.S. §54-1m and clarify the statute. In addition, the new language would provide for consistency throughout the state utilizing a standardized form to collect information pertaining to traffic stops, including the basis for any search conducted, the result of such search and the statutory citation of any citation issued.

The proposed changes are the result of numerous meetings between members of the Connecticut Racial Profiling Project which included law enforcement, the Chief State Attorney's office and this office. The proposed bill makes important changes to the type of data to be collected and would require reports to be filed with the Office of Policy and Management. The data collected will ensure that the state will have the information necessary to identify whether racial profiling is being conducted by law enforcement.

Racial profiling is an illegal and discriminatory practice that impacts upon the rights of everyone to be treated fairly. Profiling also has significant implications regarding racial and ethnic disparities and disproportionate contact of minorities within the criminal justice system. This Office urges support of this bill.