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State of Connecticut

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TESTIMONY OF OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
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COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
FEBURARY 26, 2013

RAISED BILL 328, AN ACT CONCERNING MINORS AND VIOLENT POINT AND SHOOT VIDEO GAMES.

The Office of Chief Public Defender asks that the Chief Public Defender or their designee be added to the task force proposed in Section 2 of ***Raised Bill 328, An Act Concerning Minors and Violent Point and Shoot Video Games.*** This bill would establish a Violent Video Game Task Force within the Department of Children and Families. The Task Force would be charged with gathering information on the impact of violent video games on children and making recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding policy and programming to reduce negative consequences of violent games. Exposure to point and shoot video games is thought to numb children to the effect of violence and it is important that Connecticut collect relevant data and consider if legislation or other programming is necessary to protect children from these games.

The Office of Chief Public Defender is responsible for representing the most vulnerable children in Connecticut, children who are abused, neglected, accused delinquent or caught in a custody battle. The Chief Public Defender and the staff of the agency have a unique perspective on how children relate to their community and how they spend their free time. As a result, the inclusion of the Chief Public Defender or her designee would enable this office to provide valuable insight to the task force as policies to minimize the impact of violent video games on children is debated.

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