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*ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK
March 3, 2014

TO: The Honorable Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee
Senator Eric D. Coleman
Representative Gerald M. Fox and Members of the Judiciary Committee

RE: HB 5221-A” Second Look” at Lengthy Prison Sentences Imposed on Children

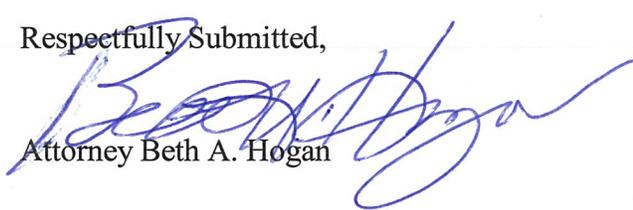
My name is Attorney Beth A. Hogan and I am here today to support Bill No. HB 5221

I support the Connecticut Sentencing Commission recommendations concerning the lengthy sentences served by children and youth who had committed a crime while under the age of eighteen years and were convicted by trial or by guilty plea of the criminal offense. This reasonable rational and equitable legislation aligns with the criteria set forth of a “meaningful review” as outlined by the United States Supreme Court in Graham and Miller. The Sentencing Commission had worked diligently towards this legislative goal during the last few years. Two years ago, the Sentencing Committee wanted more time to work on its legislative recommendations and to reach consensus by its diverse membership. The Sentencing Commission was successful in its efforts and presented legislative language under Raised Bill NO. 6581. In 2013, the bill was successfully voted out of Judicial Committee and House members passed the bill in 137-4 vote but it died in Senate due to time constraints and proximity to the expiration of the 2013 session.

Now, here we are again. This time I respectfully request this process be expedited so that House and Senate Members have to opportunity to act. This legislative language in HB 5221 provides the same guidelines and balance as the language contained in Raised Bill No. 6581.

At this point in the legislative process, the years of testimony on brain development and the capacity for rehabilitation and the United States Supreme Court’s decisions regarding Juvenile Justice, I believe we are now fully educated to approve and implement this legislation based on all the years of studies, testimony and the United States Supreme Court decisions.

Respectfully Submitted,


Attorney Beth A. Hogan