



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Public Hearing Testimony

Judiciary Committee

March 4, 2015



S.B. No. 796 AN ACT CONCERNING LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED BY A CHILD OR YOUTH AND THE SENTENCING OF A CHILD OR YOUTH CONVICTED OF CERTAIN FELONY OFFENSES.

The Department of Children and Families **supports** S.B. No. 796, An Act Concerning Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed by a Child or Youth and the Sentencing of a Child or Youth Convicted of Certain Felony Offenses.

As the state agency responsible for child welfare, behavioral health and juvenile justice for children, youth and families, DCF is well aware that adolescent brain development continues for young adults well into their mid-20's. Many of the individuals who have received lengthy sentences for crimes committed as a youth were involved with DCF at a young age through one or more of our service mandates. Many experienced trauma at a very young age. They are certainly capable of rehabilitation and have the ability to live productive lives.