



**State of Connecticut**  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**TESTIMONY OF THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**S.B. No. 1087 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL OFFENDER  
REGISTRATION LAWS, RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS FOR REGISTERED SEXUAL  
OFFENDERS AND REENTRY HOUSING**

JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
March 16, 2015

The Division of Criminal Justice opposes Sections 14 through 16 of S.B. No. 1087, An Act Concerning Sexual Offender Registration Laws, Residency Restrictions for Registered Sexual Offenders and Reentry Housing, and would respectfully recommend the Committee's JOINT FAVORABLE SUBSTITUTE REPORT to delete these sections of the bill in their entirety and amend the appropriate related references to reflect such deletion.

Section 14 of S.B. No. 1087 proposes unnecessary and potentially dangerous changes to the long-settled statutory scheme for Risk of Injury to Children incorporated in Section 53-21 of the General Statutes. Although the title of the bill and statement of purpose indicate that this legislation deals with sexual offenders, the revisions concerning Risk of Injury to Children go far beyond. This could appropriately be described as an attempt to fix something that is not broken.

Section 14 repeals the Risk of Injury to Children crime found in Section 53-21(a)(2), which is a staple of the prosecution of child abuse cases. The bill in Sections 15 and 16 reconstitutes what would be the former 53-21(a)(2) as new crimes making it a class A or class B felony depending on the age of the victim. This is not necessary for prosecution given the other statutes available, and the change as proposed will wreak havoc with the prosecution of these cases because the victim cannot tell us whether he or she was under age 13 or over age 13 for a particular offense.

In conclusion, the existing Risk of Injury to Children statute has evolved over many decades to become one of the most valuable tools available for protecting children from a wide range of dangers and potentially harmful conduct. The Division would respectfully request that the statute remain intact and that Sections 14-16 of S.B. No. 1087 be deleted in their entirety along with the appropriate references to those sections throughout the bill. We thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit input on this issue and would be happy to provide any additional information or answer any questions you might have.