

CCDLA  
"Ready in the Defense of Liberty"  
Founded 1988

Connecticut Criminal Defense  
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March 4, 2015

The Honorable Eric D. Coleman  
The Honorable William Tong  
Chairmen  
Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

**Re: Raised Bill 6926, An Act Concerning Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed By A Child or Youth**

Dear Chairmen and Committee Members:

The Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (CCDLA) is a statewide organization of over 300 licensed lawyers, in both the public and private sectors, dedicated to defending persons accused of criminal offenses. Founded in 1988, the CCDLA works to improve the criminal justice system by ensuring that the individual rights guaranteed by the Connecticut and United States constitutions are applied fairly and equally and that those rights are not diminished. At the same time, the CCDLA strives to improve and suggest changes to the laws and procedures that apply to criminal justice.

The CCDLA endorses the testimony of the Office of the Chief Public Defender as it pertains to the provisions in **Raised Bill 6926, An Act Concerning Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed by a Child or Youth**. The CCDLA also relies upon its own submitted written testimony on **Raised Bill 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 additional support for Raised Bill No. 6926.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Elisa L. Villa  
President, CCDLA

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