



***Office of Chief Public Defender
State of Connecticut***

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**Testimony of
Susan O. Storey, Chief Public Defender**

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
April 1, 2015**

**Governor's Bill No. 951
An Act Consolidating Criminal Justice, Juvenile and Family Service Programs**

The Office of Chief Public Defender opposes passage of this bill which would remove the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) from the Judicial Department and transfer its employees, duties and functions to the Department of Children and Families and the Department of Corrections. Currently, per C.G.S. §51-1d, the Court Support Service Division is comprised of the offices of adult probation, juvenile detention, alternative sanctions, bail and family. This bill would dissolve CSSD and place the development and coordination of all programs and services for the juvenile justice system and adult offenders into the Executive Branch.

The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this Committee not to take any action on this proposed bill. The Court Support Services Division has a long history of collaboration with the Division of Public Defender Services and provides comprehensive services to the clients of this Agency efficiently. As a result, no good reason has been put forth to dissolve CSSD despite its well documented and extraordinary experience in carrying out its mission and assisting adults and juveniles in the criminal justice system.