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*State Victim Advocate*

Testimony of Natasha M. Pierre, Esq., State Victim Advocate  
Submitted to the Judiciary Committee  
Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, my name is Natasha Pierre and I am the Victim Advocate for the State of Connecticut. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony concerning:

Senate Bill No. 1027, An Act Concerning Management of Individuals Committed to the Psychiatric Security Review Board

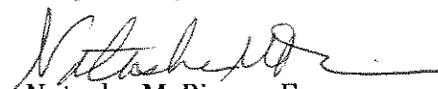
The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) was established to protect and promote the constitutional and statutory rights of crime victims throughout the criminal justice process. Among the rights afforded to crime victims is the right to be reasonably protected from the accused during the criminal justice process.

In response to a crime victim's concern for his/her personal safety, the court may enter orders that restrict the accused's liberty through the issuance of a criminal protective order or an order of no contact. Additionally, the court may, in determining what conditions of release will reasonably ensure the person's appearance in court and that the safety of any other person will not be endangered, consider certain factors, including the nature and circumstances of the offense, the person's record of previous conditions and the person's history of violence.

Senate Bill No. 1027 will ensure that these same factors are applied when an acquittee, who is in the custody of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, commits an assaultive or threatening offense and is arrested. The proposal will consider the safety of hospital patients, staff and visitors as well as comport with the crime victims' constitutional right to be reasonably protected from the accused. I strongly urge the Committee's favorable report.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Natasha M. Pierre, Esq.  
State Victim Advocate