



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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Testimony of the Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities Before the Judiciary Committee

Submitted by: Craig B. Henrici
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Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Reblimbas, and members of the committee. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on **Raised Bill No. 1111, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AND THE REMOVAL OF THE TERMS "CRIPPLED" AND "DEFECTIVE EYESIGHT" FROM THE GENERAL STATUTES.** Our Office supports this measure.

The Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities is an independent State agency created to safeguard and advance the civil and human rights of people with disabilities in Connecticut. The Office is pleased to see the continued efforts to rid the Connecticut General Statutes of offensive language related to persons with disabilities. SB 1111 would remove "crippled" and "defective eyesight" from the Connecticut General Statutes. These terms were used in a bygone era that looked down upon people with disabilities as either "less than" or as deserving pity.

This bill is an acknowledgment that people are not defined by their disability but by their humanity and character—traits shared by all people. These are just a few reasons the Office strongly supports this bill.