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State Victim Advocate

Testimony of Natasha M. Pierre, Esq., State Victim Advocate
Submitted to the Judiciary Committee
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Good morning Senator Doyle, Senator Kissel, Representative Tong 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:

Raised Bill No. 5578, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to the Sexual Offender Registry

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) is a member of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission and is supportive of the efforts to improve the state's public sex offender registry as well as ensuring that the voices of victims/survivors are maintained in the process.

Raised Bill No. 5578 will move Connecticut's Sex Offender Registry to a tier based system rather than a conviction driven system. Currently, an offender's criminal conviction determines whether the offender must register on the sex offender registry and for the length of time the offender must maintain the registration. The proposal will establish a Sexual Offender Registration Board, comprised of individuals who specialize in the assessment, treatment and supervision of sex offenders. The Board will be responsible for the assessment of each sexual offender and determine whether the offender is a low, moderate or high risk offender. The assignment of low, moderate or high risk will then determine whether the offender is registered on the public registry or the law enforcement registry, or both.

Raised Bill No. 5578 also includes a mechanism for offenders to petition for removal from the registry and provides for notification and input from the victims/survivors prior to any decision regarding an offender's petition.

The OVA urges the Committee's favorable report on Raised Bill No. 5578. Thank you for consideration of my testimony.