



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of Renee Cimino, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection Office of Chief Public Defender

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE - MARCH 26, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7071 AN ACT CONCERNING FAMILIES WITH SERVICE NEEDS

Consistent with its position in the past, the Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) would urge this committee to take no action on *Raised H.B. 7071, An Act Concerning Families with Service Needs*. This legislation would reestablish juvenile court jurisdiction over Family with Service Needs petitions.

As this committee is aware, Connecticut eliminated juvenile court jurisdiction over Family with Service Needs (FWSN) cases to promote increased diversion, remove school-prison pipelines and gain timely access to community-based services for behaviors that are not criminal.

The progressive sunseting of FWSN jurisdiction concluded during the pandemic on June 30, 2020, and children and families are now receiving these services through Youth Services Bureaus without the unnecessary delay and stigma of being processed through the court system.

Raised Bill 7071 would result in counterproductive backsliding on a long-overdue and effective reform effort. *OCPD requests that the Committee take no action on this bill.*
Thank you.