



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. 7250

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) was established to review existing juvenile justice policy, recommend changes to strengthen the juvenile justice system and provide resources to at-risk youth. As an active member of the JJPOC, this office collaborates with the JJPOC and other stakeholders to advance the goals of the juvenile justice system, including accountability, public safety and improved outcomes for youth.

H.B. 7250 codifies the recommendations recently approved by the JJPOC. The recommendations expand the JJPOC's membership, require the Department of Education to report to the JJPOC on the use and efficacy of the chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan and require juvenile review boards or other diversion programs to annually report data on diversion to DCF.

Furthermore, the recommendations create a universal statewide youth diversion policy and training curriculum and require DCF to update JJPOC on the Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification Enhancement Plan.

This office thanks the Committee for raising this important legislation and respectfully requests a joint favorable report.