



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of John R. DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel Office of Chief Public Defender

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE - MARCH 10, 2025

Raised H. B. 1439

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF "CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL"

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) strongly disagrees with Raised Bill 1439, *An Act Concerning the Definition of "Child Sexual Abuse Material"* and believes that this is a very important issue that should minimally be examined further by either a working group and/or the Connecticut Sentencing Commission – the Sentencing Commission having prepared a 68 page report in 2018 that thoroughly examined the complex issues and supported HB 5578, *An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to the Sexual Offender Registry*.¹

At that time the Sentencing Commission developed a new proposal to reform the outdated child pornography statutes.² While the outcome of its efforts did in fact lead to proposed recommendations of the Sentencing Commission with respect to this and other areas, unfortunately, the proposal was not raised for a public hearing. The Office of Chief Public Defender opposes this bill as drafted and asks that the Committee take no action. In the alternative, this office respectfully proposes either the creation of a Working Group and/or the re-examination and potential continuation of the exhaustive work of the Sentencing Commission. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ See Annual Report 2018: Connecticut Sentencing Commission. This was one of two bills thoroughly examined by the Commission.

² [An-Act-Concerning-Recommendations-of-the-Sentencing-Commission-with-Respect-to-Penalties-for-Sex-Offenders.pdf](#)