



State of Connecticut

DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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**Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director
Office of Chief Public Defender**

**JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Public Hearing - March 17, 2025**

**Raised Bill No. 1500
AN ACT CONCERNING VERIFICATION OF
SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRANTS' ADDRESSES**

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports S. B. 1500, *An Act Concerning Verification Of Sexual Offender Registrants' Addresses*. Persons on the sex offender registry are required to verify their addresses or be charged with a class D felony for failure to do so. However, substantial collateral consequences confront persons released into the community who have been convicted of a felony, especially if convicted of a sex offense. Some are homeless while others face difficult if not impossible obstacles in trying to obtain stable housing - especially individuals subject to the Sex Offender Registry. As a result, many are unable to receive the mailings and information required to comply with the registry law. There are those also that are unemployed and lack the financial resources to update the information in person. In such cases, this failure is not intentional but due to circumstances beyond the control of the person based on their indigency.

This bill will allow more time for persons to comply with the law instead of facing a D felony charge. It will also provide a process, including submitting the information over the telephone, to permit people to comply with the law. Lastly, it reduces the penalty for unintentional violations to an infraction.

In conclusion, the Office of Chief Public Defender requests this Committee to vote *favorably* on this bill. Thank you.