



State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

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Testimony of Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director
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JUDICIARY COMMITTEE - MARCH 7, 2025

Raised Bill No. 6983

AN ACT CONCERNING POST-CONVICTION DNA TESTING

The Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) supports *Raised H.B. 6983, An Act Concerning Post-Conviction DNA Testing*. The bill would permit a person to file for DNA testing if they were convicted and sentenced to incarceration. Such DNA evidence could be in the possession or control of Division of Criminal Justice (prosecution), any law enforcement agency including but not limited to municipal or state police, a lab or the court. The denial of such a request would now be a final judgment for purposes of an appeal. An important change proposed is the removal of the requirement that a person has to be incarcerated at the time of the request. This is important and will assist persons who wish to clear their name as they re-enter the community upon release or while working to better themselves as contributing members of society.

In conclusion, this office requests that the Committee vote favorably on this bill. Thank you.