



***Office of Chief Public Defender
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**TESTIMONY OF DEBORAH DEL PRETE SULLIVAN, LEGAL COUNSEL
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***Raised House Bill No.7287
An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Sentencing Commission
Judiciary Committee - March 20, 2017***

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports *Raised Bill 7287* and is a member of the Sentencing Commission which has been working on the recommendations presented today. Among the recommendations, this bill attempts to strike fairness in cases where a person has been arrested for a minor offense, who is not a threat or considered at risk of flight, but who has no ability to post a bond, even if nominal, due to indigency. The bill provides for the setting of non-financial conditions in certain misdemeanor and appropriate cases. It requires, in misdemeanor cases when bond has not been posted, review of the person's bond not later than 14 days after arraignment. The court is required to release a person held on bond in a misdemeanor case, not a family violence crime, to be released on non financial conditions. This review assists persons the opportunity to maintain their residence or job so that they do not suffer further collateral consequences should their offense result in a nolle, dismissal or probation. These recommendations would provide for a system where financial bail is reserved for those who are charged with more serious offenses who are at risk to flight and failure to appear or whose behavior provides threatens the safety of others.