



Legislative Testimony
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Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 1230, An Act Expanding Access to Public Defender Services

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in support of Senate Bill 1230, An Act Expanding Access to Public Defender Services.

As an organization that fights for fairness and justice in the criminal legal system, the ACLU-CT supports Senate Bill 1230 to ensure that people accused of crimes have the legal representation they are guaranteed by our constitution. All people, regardless of income, deserve access to competent and zealous legal advocates. Senate Bill 1230 would expand access to public defender services by increasing the income limit to 250 percent of the federal poverty level. The ACLU-CT strongly supports this bill, paired with increasing the funding for public defenders, and encourages this Committee to do the same.