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State of Connecticut  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY

RICHARD J. COLANGELO, JR.  
CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY

300 CORPORATE PLACE  
ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067  
(860) 258 5800

November 10, 2021

Joseph J. Del Ciampo, Esq.  
Director of Legal Services  
Connecticut Judicial Branch  
100 Washington Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06115-0474

Re: RC ID# 2021-011

Dear Attorney Del Ciampo,

I am writing to provide comments on behalf of the Division of Criminal Justice regarding the proposed changes to the rules addressing the non-judicial handling of juvenile matters, Sections 27-1A and 27-4a.

The Division of Criminal Justice is very concerned that these changes will remove any meaningful accountability for many serious crimes, including juvenile possession of firearms and car theft, while making no provisions for victims.

Specifically, the Division would highlight the following concerns with the proposal:

- 1) A child who has had cases handled non-judicially twice previously should have to go to court. If the prior two non-judicial interventions did not work, our experience shows a third is unlikely to change meaningfully the juvenile's behavior. We also question how a juvenile who has admitted delinquency twice previously could be considered at low risk of reoffending.
- 2) Similarly, we disagree that a juvenile who was adjudicated delinquent previously should be considered at low risk of reoffending.
- 3) Due to the recent dramatic increase in car thefts, many accompanied by violence, the Division believes that these cases demand more structured supervision through formal court proceedings, not less.

- 4) The Division believes strongly that cases in which a child possesses a firearm should be handled formally in court to assure public safety given the recent dramatic increase in shootings and homicides.
- 5) The Division also has concerns with the language that only cases where children are deemed to be at the highest risk will be handled in court. This would prevent judicial intervention that could help juveniles who are at moderate risk.

We believe that given the complexity of the issue and the significant divergence of opinion on how to best address the changing dynamics of juvenile crime, this type of change should be addressed by the General Assembly in the upcoming legislative session.

Thank you for providing the Division the opportunity to participate in this process.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Colangelo, Jr.", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

RICHARD J. COLANGELO, JR.  
CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY