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State of Connecticut
DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

OFFICE OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
30 TRINITY STREET, 4TH FLOOR
HARTFORD, CT 06106

ATTORNEY CHRISTINE PERRA RAPILLO
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER
TEL: (860) 509-6429
FAX: (860) 509-6499

May 9, 2019

Joseph J. Del Ciampo, Esq.
Counsel
Rules Committee of the Superior Court
P.O. Box 150474
Hartford, CT 06115-0474

Dear Attorney Del Ciampo:

I write in support of the proposed amendment to Section 38-8 of the Connecticut Practice Book. Section 38-8 deals with the administration of ten percent cash bail. Current rules allow the court to designate that a bail may be posted as a ten percent cash alternative. This amendment would provide that any bail set at under \$20,000 could automatically be posted by depositing cash equaling ten percent of the total bond amount with the police or clerk of the court.

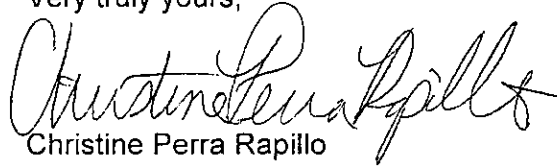
This is an important proposal that should be adopted. Currently, the court can authorize a ten percent cash bail at arraignment. Under this arrangement, the accused or their supporters will have the funds returned to them at the end of the case. Automatically authorizing a ten percent cash bail alternative will allow individuals to make a cash deposit at the time of arrest and avoid paying a surety bond. Surety bonds involve fees that are returned to the bail bond industry and not the accused.

This proposal is a good step towards eliminating the impact of economic disparity in our criminal courts by making it more likely that an accused in minor criminal cases can be released pending disposition of their case. This proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Connecticut Sentencing Commission. The Commission is a multidisciplinary group consisting of prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, law enforcement, victim's

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advocates and other system partners. I urge the Rules Committee to adopt the proposed amendment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Perra Rapillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Christine Perra Rapillo
Chief Public Defender

CPR/lec