

**Testimony of
Susan O. Storey, Chief Public Defender**

*H.B. 5145, An Act Concerning the
Recommendations of the Sentencing Commission Regarding the
Classification of Unclassified Misdemeanors.*

*Raised Bill No. 100, An Act Concerning the
Recommendations of the Sentencing Commission With Respect to
Sexual Assault in the Fourth degree and Kidnapping in the First Degree with a Firearm and*

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 5, 2012**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports both *Raised Bill No. 100, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Sentencing Commission With Respect to Sexual Assault in the Fourth degree and Kidnapping in the First Degree with a Firearm and Raised Bill 5145, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Sentencing Commission Regarding the Classification of Unclassified Misdemeanors*. As a member of the Sentencing Task Force, I wish to thank the leadership of the co-chairs and the task force membership and its subcommittees who have worked tirelessly to produce these recommendations for you.

Raised Bill 100 makes the statutes pertaining to these offenses consistent with current law. Raised Bill 5145, among other things, would classify unclassified misdemeanors and provide for the mailing in of payments for violations, thereby decreasing court resources and in some instances increasing revenue. Passage of 5145 would also provide for greater consistency in the application of these laws in the state. Therefore, this office requests that these bills receive a favorable report.