



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Deborah J. Fuller
Judiciary Committee
March 13, 2006**

**House Bill 5781, An Act Concerning Certificates of
Employability and Rehabilitation**

Good morning. My name is Deborah Fuller and I appear before you today on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to *House Bill 5781, An Act Concerning Certificates of Employability and Rehabilitation*. While we support the goal of this proposal, we do not believe that it is appropriate for judges to make decisions regarding an offender's suitability for employment or licensure. We have serious concerns with the process set out in the bill.

This bill would create a new process whereby any individual who has been convicted of a crime could make application to the Superior Court, either at the time of sentencing or at any time thereafter, for a certificate of eligibility that would relieve them of the barriers to employment or license/permit/certificate/registration forfeiture that resulted from their conviction. It would include individuals who were convicted in other states, but who currently reside in Connecticut. All offenders sentenced to two years imprisonment or less (including no period of imprisonment) would be eligible. Certificates may be granted during the period of probation, at which point they would be deemed temporary, becoming permanent at the time they complete their probation.

This bill would also impose a substantial increased workload on the Branch, both for our Court Operations Division, which would be handling the applications, and for our Court Support Services Division, which would conduct the investigations of the applicants. This would require additional resources.

I urge the Committee not to act favorably on this proposal.