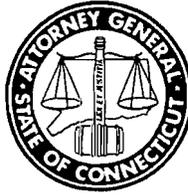


RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Office of The Attorney General  
**State of Connecticut**

**TESTIMONY OF  
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 24, 2006**

I appreciate the opportunity to support Senate Bill 432, An Act Establishing a Demonstration Project for an Office of Administrative Hearings.

This legislation creates an Office of Administrative Hearings that would provide hearing officers to hear and decide agency administrative matters. The Office would hear cases involving whistleblower retaliation, human rights complaints, special education, public assistance and transportation. The hearing officers would be trained in the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act process and in the substantive law areas for the cases that would be assigned to them

An independent hearings office is hardly a new concept. The federal government and other states have created administrative law judges to impartially decide citizens' petitions for state rights, privileges or benefits for which state law provides an administrative hearing.

A streamlined, professional state agency hearing process would assist citizens by creating a more consistent application of state law. Such written, consistent hearing officer decisions would also offer guidance to judges who may hear an appeal of those decisions.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of Senate Bill 432.