

NIRENSTEIN, HOROWITZ & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

43 WOODLAND STREET, SUITE 520

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

860-548-1000

FAX 860-548-1832

**Written Testimony Submitted by Maura Woods
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 3, 2006**

H.B. No. 5538, An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Premarital Agreements

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Committee. My name is Maura Woods and I am an Associate Attorney with the law firm of Nirenstein, Horowitz & Associates, P.C. I submit this written testimony to you today in support of H.B. No. 5538, An Act Concerning the Enforcement of Premarital Agreements.

We support this bill because it provides greater certainty for couples who enter into premarital agreements in that their wishes as expressed in the agreement will be upheld and enforced in a court of law. Couples who may now be hesitant to marry because of the uncertainty of the enforceability of premarital agreements will feel more confident to proceed with marriage.

As estate planning specialists, we often see the negative impact of contesting wills, trusts, and other documents and the resultant infighting. Not only is it costly to both the parties involved and to our court system, the effect on family relations can be devastating. This bill helps couples reduce disputes in the event the marriage fails and will decrease the incidence of contestability.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support.