

CONNECTICUT CIVIL RIGHTS COUNCIL

March 10, 2006

Judicial Committee
Room 2500 LOB
Hartford, CT 06106

On behalf of myself and as a representative of the Conn. Civil Rights Council I am writing in support of ***Raised Bill No. 5600,***

AN ACT CONCERNING PARENTING TIME AND PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE CUSTODY OF A MINOR CHILD.

This bill addressed a primary issue disturbing children in divorce and custody disputes and the need and rights for children to have both parents fully involved. Through Federal case law such as Meyers vs. Nebraska and Stanley vs. Illinois and the Connecticut Commission on Divorce Custody and Children (CCDC), Parents clearly have a legal right to equality in parenting their children and children clearly suffer when the playing field is not level. Additionally, the conflict that arises in divorce and custody proceedings, the manipulations of the courts, police and agencies like DCF are typical results of a lack of protection for parents and the lack of equality presumptions. The bar to deny parental rights is too low.

I my case, contact with my children was terminated by the family court without allegations or testimony of an unfit parent or harm to the children. Instead, the court overruled the evidence of a caring father whom the children were desperate to see and the harm to the children from being fatherless. Without laws for the presumption of equality, fathers like myself and our children will continue to suffer needlessly.

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