



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Deborah Fuller  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 3, 2006**

**Senate Bill 360, An Act Concerning Arraignments on Arrest Warrants**

Good afternoon. My name is Deborah Fuller and I appear before you today on behalf of the Judicial Branch to testify in support of *S. B. 360, An Act Concerning Arraignments on Arrest Warrants*, which was submitted as part of our legislative package.

This bill would make clear in which venues arraignments on a warrant can occur. At the request of the Judicial Branch, the statute that would be amended by this proposal was amended last year. The purpose of last year's amendment was to create an additional option for arraignments on violations of probation or failures to appear arising out of Part A criminal cases, so that these cases did not have to be first arraigned in the Geographical Area courts. However, the language of the bill that ultimately passed inadvertently deleted language that had been put into the statute several years ago to allow criminal defendants to be arraigned in the Geographical Area where they were arrested, so long as they were subsequently presented to the court in the district where the warrant was issued. This proposal restores that language, and reorganizes the statute to make it more clear.

This bill also addresses one other arraignment issue. A defendant who is arrested on a warrant, and who has charges related to that warrant pending in several court districts, must be presented in each court where charges are pending within two days. This is simply unworkable. Therefore, we are requesting that the statute be

amended to allow subsequent presentments at the other courts where charges are pending to occur at 5-day intervals. This will allow the necessary paperwork to be completed, and will not prejudice defendants, as they have been arraigned and have had the opportunity to argue bond.

I urge the Committee to act favorably on this proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.