

Dear Honored Members of the Judiciary Committee,

This is written testimony regarding "an act concerning the electronic recording of interrogations" (Raised bill #456).

In this day when transparency is so important to maintain citizen confidence in the integrity of all governmental functions, both federal and state, Bill #456 "An Act Concerning the Electronic Recording of Interrogations" is an excellent opportunity for the State of Connecticut to put in place a method that will erase all doubt concerning the legitimacy of confessions obtained during such interrogations.

Because of our more than 30 years of experience with people with cognitive disabilities, we are painfully aware of their desire to please those who are perceived to be in positions of authority. In addition to our personal experience there are countless studies to verify this fact. Therefore, interrogations particularly of people with various cognitive disabilities (not just the legal definition of mental retardation) must include safeguards. The important work of law enforcement officials is not in question here. In fact, we believe that electronic recordings will enhance the law enforcement procedures.

We respectfully request that the Judiciary Committee favorably vote on this measure and go on record to increase the integrity and transparency of our important judicial system.

Should more detailed information be helpful we would be most happy to comply.

Sincerely,

GEORGE G. DUCHARME
PO Box 358
Manchester, CT 06040

PATRICIA BEEMAN
PO Box 358
Manchester, CT 06040