



Written Testimony Before the Judiciary Committee

In Opposition to House Bill No. 5686, AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF STATE MARSHALS AS SPECIAL POLICEMEN IN CHILD SUPPORT MATTERS

As lead agency for child support enforcement in Connecticut, the Department of Social Services is opposed to the appointment of State Marshals as special policemen for purposes expressed in this legislation.

Due to the high profile nature of the task, and the inherent danger associated with the service of all warrants and *capias mittimus* orders issued by the family support magistrates or courts in child support cases, we believe that only properly trained officers should serve such documents. In the Department of Social Services, Bureau of Child Support Enforcement, a *Special Enforcement Officer* (Class Code 3391) is required to be a police officer certified by the State of Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training Council in order to serve child support warrants and *capias mittimus* orders. Certified officers in this state must successfully complete 28 weeks of full time police academy training and 400 hours of on-the-job training with a certified training officer. In addition, a series of background checks including fingerprints, polygraph, and a psychological exam are mandatory. As with any certified police officer, Child Support Special Enforcement Officers are also required to receive and maintain certification in specialties such as the use of their handgun, batons, handcuffs, and pepper spray.

For additional information on this testimony or any other legislation concerning the Department of Social Services, contact Matthew Barrett at (860) 424-5012.