



State of Connecticut
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*Testimony by Representative Themis Klarides
Before the Judiciary Committee
On Senate Bill 6814
February 26, 2007*

Good afternoon Chairman McDonald, Chairman Lawlor, Representative O'Neill, Senator Kissel, and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Representative Themis Klarides, representing the 114th District. I am here today to speak on HB 6814.

This bill will require, with respect to dissolution of marriage, legal separation or annulment, a parent to maintain an unmarried child until the child attains the age of nineteen, or up to the age of twenty to the extent necessary for the child to complete high school. As a current general practice, it is the parent's obligation to support the child until he/she has reached the age of majority, which in CT is 18 years old. At such time the parent's obligation terminates.

Upon or after the annulment or dissolution of any marriage or the entry of a decree of legal separation or divorce, the parents of a minor child of the marriage must maintain the child according to their respective abilities, if the child is in need of maintenance (CGS § 46b-84(a)). With this bill we as a state will make certain that any child up through high school or the age of nineteen or twenty will be ensured that they will be parented regardless of their parent's marital status, that they will have a chance to graduate high school. Any child denied an education because of marital problems is one child too many.

Thank you for the hearing on HB 6814 and I wish to express my support of the bill and the committee's favorable action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Themis Klarides".

Rep. Themis Klarides