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To: Senate Co-Chair Andrew McDonald
House Co-Chair Michael Lawlor
Senate Ranking Member John Kissel
House Ranking Member Arthur O'Neill
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Judge James J. Lawlor
Probate Court Administrator

Re: RB 7067 An Act Concerning the Appointment and Powers of Conservators and
Special Limited Conservators with Respect to Psychiatric Treatment.

Date: February 16, 2007

For a number of years §17a-543 has governed the ability of the Probate Court to authorize the administration of medication for the treatment of psychiatric disability to a patient without his or her consent.

While the existing statute provides definite requirements for the issuance of such orders, it does not specify the standard of proof to be applied by the court. The proposed bill would provide needed clarification, requiring that the necessary facts be established by clear and convincing evidence.

The treatment governed by the statute is highly intrusive to the patient and justifies this elevated standard of proof. We urge the committee's favorable consideration of this bill.