

**Testimony of Barbara J. Lynch, Ph.D., LMFT  
Professor and Clinical Supervisor of Marriage & Family Therapists  
Southern Connecticut State University**

**RB 7150 An Act Concerning the Funding of Regional Children's Probate Courts**

February 26, 2007

Dear Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee:

I have been involved with the Children's Probate Courts since the inception of the concept. I have served as a clinical supervisor for Probate Court Officers and interns working in the courts of New Haven, Waterbury, New London, and Meriden. I also have been a consultant for both judges and court officers and a presenter at new judge's training sessions. In the intervening years, I have been a direct witness to the advantages offered to children and families by this system. Probate Court Officers and ancillary staff have devoted their energies to assessing families and their situations and working toward effective resolutions that are in the best interest of children in the immediate present and also in the best interests of the future for these families, the children and the families that will be involved in future generations.

Sometimes the gains seem minute. However the extent of the commitment to the process and to the families that is shown by the staff leaves a felt experience of respect and caring that cannot be underestimated or denied. This experience tells families that there are service providers who will work tirelessly to bring forth a resolution even when it means difficulties are encountered.

I have been impressed with the devotion, energy level, and commitment of all the Probate Court Officers in their quest for positive outcomes for children and their families. I would like to add my support for continuing funding for this effort in the near future.

Cordially,

Barbara J. Lynch, Ph.D., LMFT  
Professor and Clinical Supervisor of Marriage & Family Therapists