



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of Deborah Fuller
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
February 26, 2007**

**House Bill 7238, An Act Concerning the Commission on Child Protection
and the Chief Child Protection Attorney**

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **House Bill 7238, An Act Concerning the Commission on Child Protection and the Chief Child Protection Attorney**. The Judicial Branch urges the Committee to act favorably on this proposal.

This proposal would facilitate improvement in the quality of legal representation for children and indigent parties, primarily in child protection proceedings. We strongly support this goal. It is impossible to overestimate how important adequate, competent legal representation is to the children and families that come before the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters.

As the Committee is aware, the main reason that the Commission on Child Protection was created two years ago was to address inadequacies in the existing system of representation. Since their inception, the Commission and the Office of the Chief Child Protection Attorney have made great progress. This bill will facilitate further progress. We note that section 2 of the proposal, which would raise the attorneys' hourly rate, would require additional resources for the Commission, and we would hope that those resources will be provided.

We would respectfully suggest two minor changes to the language, and have attached a suggested amendment to that effect.

Thank you for the consideration of this testimony.

**Suggested Amendment to
House Bill 7238, An Act Concerning the Commission on Child
Protection and the Chief Child Protection Attorney**

1. In line 130, add "any contract application from" after "reject".
2. In line 184, delete "the Commission on Child" and insert "required on forms prescribed by the Office of the Child Court Administrator" in lieu thereof.
3. Delete lines 185 and 186 in their entirety.