



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Deborah Fuller  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 5, 2007**

**House Bill 7287, An Act Concerning a Request  
for Final Disposition**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to **House Bill 7287, An Act Concerning a Request for Final Disposition**.

This proposal presents serious operational concerns for the Judicial Branch. In many cases, it would be impossible to commence trial on a misdemeanor within 60 days of arrest. Some misdemeanors are more complicated than felonies. An example of this is negligent homicide, which could require lab work and other analyses that must be completed prior to the commencement of trial. It is quite probable that the proposed requirements for misdemeanor offenses would result in the Branch dedicating many of its resources to misdemeanor trials, thereby delaying the court's ability to try more serious felony matters. Eligibility for a trial within 60 days of arrest is likely to result in significant huge demand for misdemeanor trials, significant burden on the Branch and facilities, and significant detriment to case management of serious cases.

In addition, regarding section 1, which addresses people who are serving a sentence: recently inmates have been filing a speedy trial motion when they are serving a sentence and a warrant is just lodged against them. It would be helpful to clarify in statute that a warrant being lodged or filed is not the same as a case pending against them. Our clerk's offices receive a large number of such "requests for final disposition" for outstanding warrants where the warrant has not yet been served, no arrest has been made and there is no pending case. In such situations, the court does not yet have a case, and there is no means to effectively hold such a request and match it to an arrest that may or may not be made down the road. Any such Speedy Trial request must be made for a "pending" case, not a potential arrest.

In light of these concerns, we urge the Committee not to act favorably on this bill.