



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of Deborah J. Fuller
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
April 9, 2007**

Senate Bill 186, An Act Concerning the Release and Sale of Conviction Information after a Pardon is Granted the Restoration of an Operator's License and the Issuance of a Special Operator's Permit

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding *Senate Bill 1869, An Act Concerning the Release and Sale of Conviction Information after a Pardon is Granted, the Restoration of an Operator's License and the Issuance of a Special Operator's Permit*.

The Judicial Branch certainly recognizes the laudable goals of this legislation. However, we are very concerned with the impact that sections 1 and 2 of this proposal will have on the operation of our court clerks' offices. These sections of the bill would mandate that consumer reporting agencies verify with the Judicial Branch the validity of information that they have obtained on consumers, and would require that the Branch update an individual's criminal history record information no later than two business days after a criminal record is erased, modified or corrected, or a pardon is granted.

In addition, regarding section 2 of the proposal, the statutes currently prohibit the Judicial Branch from informing an entity who has purchased conviction information from us in the past of the fact that the information is no longer accurate or needs to be updated because the person has been granted a pardon. Doing so would constitute the disclosure of what is currently defined as non-disclosable information. Should the

Committee wish to effectuate this proposal, additional language to allow this particular category of non-disclosable information to be disclosed must be added.

As members of the Committee may be aware, the Judicial Branch is suffering from severe staff shortages in our clerk's offices. Currently, there are at least 70 essential vacancies that cannot be filled due to budgetary constraints; among other things, this causes delays in the entry of data. The problem has become so acute that the Chief Court Administrator has authorized staff to work evenings and weekends to try to catch up on the backload in the clerk's offices.

The requirements of this bill would further compound a situation which is already untenable. The Judicial Branch will not be able to handle the huge number of inquiries made by consumer reporting agencies nor will we be able to update criminal history record information within two days without a significant increase in staff.

Therefore, should the Committee act favorably on this bill, we would respectfully request that it be referred to the Appropriations Committee for consideration of the necessary resources.

Thank you for your attention to our concern.