



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 26, 2007**

**Senate Bill 973, An Act Concerning The Reimbursement
Of State Marshals**

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to *Senate Bill 973, An Act Concerning the Reimbursement of State Marshals*. The Judicial Branch is opposed to this proposal because it would open the door for state marshals to claim reimbursement for mileage expenses associated with the execution of *capias mittimuses* in the child support realm.

Currently, state marshals are paid under a flat fee for service arrangement set by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator pursuant to C.G.S. § 6-38a. Through July 1, 2007, the Chief Court Administrator has doubled the fees paid to marshals for execution of *capias* orders. A single marshal serving a *capias* is being paid \$240.

The Judicial Branch is concerned that, as a practical matter, it would be impossible to assure any accountability or quality control on fees charged if marshals could claim reimbursement for mileage for *capias* execution. It would be impossible to know or question whether the marshal made three round trips or thirty round trips before successfully arresting the defendant.

Furthermore, the bill as drafted is quite broad and seems to imply that the state would reimburse state marshals for all expenses, even those that are incurred in connection with the service of civil process, process that is false, or process in which an illegal return is made.

Should the Committee act favorably on this bill, we would respectfully request that it be sent to the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to this bill.