



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Stephen Ment  
Human Services Committee Public Hearing  
February 26, 2008**

**Senate Bill 34, An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget  
Recommendations With Respect To Social Service Programs**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in support of Senate Bill 34, *An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations with Respect to Social Service Programs*. The Judicial Branch worked in conjunction with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in regards to the provisions of sections 7 and 8, which address the Behavioral Health Partnership.

Section 7 of the bill adds children, adolescents, and families involved with the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD) to those currently eligible for participation in the Behavioral Health Partnership. This would provide cost coverage for some of the most effective treatment options, such as Multisystemic Treatment (MST), multidimensional family therapy, and Intensive In-Home Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services (IICAPS), that we currently provide to those in need of services.

In addition, Section 8 would permit the Chief Court Administrator to name an individual representing CSSD to serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council. The Judicial Branch would welcome the opportunity to participate on the Council, so that we can provide it with detailed information about the population that we serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.