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March 17, 2008

To: *Members of the Judiciary Committee*
From: *Ralph E. Wilson, Esq.*

RE: *Raised Bill No. 5837*

***AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PLACEMENT OF DELINQUENT SIXTEEN
AND SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN IN THE CONNECTICUT
JUVENILE TRAINING SCHOOL.***

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Ralph E. Wilson, Esq. and I live at 591 Bow Lane, Middletown, CT 06457. I submit this testimony in favor of Raised Bill No. 5837. To place sixteen and seventeen year olds at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School makes no sense. First, it was agreed by the Governor and others that the Connecticut Juvenile Training School (CJTS) was a mistake in the first place. It never should have been built. It was concluded that it should be closed. Smaller state facilities through out the state were better and that conclusion has not changed. Therefore, to compound the problem by sending older juveniles to the Connecticut Juvenile Training School is unacceptable.

The State has many places to spend its money. Unfortunately, the money is not endless. The legislative body must decide if the kids are worth saving. If not, then it does not matter where they are placed, young or old. In my opinion the kids are worth saving and the State should spend the money to give them a chance to be saved. It would be a start not to place the older kids at the CJTS if the State is serious about closing this ill fated facility. Then the State could move forward and site smaller facilities through out the State and eventually close CTJS. That is what should be done. The State and the leaders know that.

I request that the State Legislator approve this present bill forbidding the placement of delinquent sixteen and seventeen year olds at CJTS. Then it should move forward as stated above to close this facility and site smaller facilities across the State for the present population of CJTS.

Finally, I represent many injured workers at CJTS with Workers' Compensation Claims. If you really want to find out how chaotic the facility is at the present time, I suggest you talk to them.

I thank you for your kind attention to this matter