



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of Deborah Fuller
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
February 25, 2008**

Senate Bill 325, An Act Concerning the Commission on Child Protection

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch on *Senate Bill 325, An Act Concerning the Commission on Child Protection*.

The Judicial Branch enjoys a good working relationship with the Office of the Chief Child Protection Attorney. This is important because the function of that office is to provide attorneys for children and indigent parties who are involved in court cases. The Branch supports sections 1 through 3 and 6 of this proposal, all of which would enhance Chief Child Protection Attorney's ability to provide these important services.

The Branch also supports section 5 of the proposal, which would revise the Department of Children and Families (DCF) confidentiality statute, a revision that is long overdue. The current language restricts DCF's ability to participate in the inter-agency/branch efforts that are most likely to benefit the children it serves, including children involved in the juvenile justice system. Over the past several years, collaboration between the DCF and the Judicial Branch has increased, allowing for more effective use of resources and thereby enhancing services for children. However, sharing of information is essential to collaboration. The proposed language in this bill will ensure that the DCF can continue to work effectively with other Executive Branch agencies and the Judicial Branch to serve our state's children.

We urge the Committee to support these provisions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.