



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Stephen Ment  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
February 25, 2008**

**Senate Bill 326, An Act Requiring The Child Support And Arrearage  
Guidelines To Be Updated Every Two Years**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to *Senate Bill 326, An Act Requiring the Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines To Be Updated Every Two Years*. This bill would require that the guidelines be updated every two years, instead of every four years.

As members of the Committee may be aware, the Judicial Branch's Support Enforcement Services unit is responsible for the following items in IV-D child support cases:

- Monitoring child support awards for compliance with financial, medical insurance, and child care orders,
- Initiating court-based enforcement actions such as income withholdings, and contempt applications, and
- Reviewing financial support orders and initiating modifications when the child support order substantially deviates from the Child Support and Arrearage Guidelines.

The Judicial Branch opposes this bill chiefly because it would subvert the primary purpose of the guidelines, which is to bring uniformity and predictability to child support orders. Changing the guidelines more frequently has the potential to create confusion among the bench, the bar, and the public concerning various versions of the guidelines.

In addition, this proposal could require additional resources because every guideline revision involves costs for publication and distribution of the guidelines, computer programming costs to update the guidelines calculation module, and training for child support staff, family relations staff, and members of the bench and bar.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.