

Legal Assistance Resource Center

❖ of Connecticut, Inc. ❖

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S.B. 326 -- Biennial updates of Child Support Guidelines

Judiciary Committee public hearing -- February 25, 2008

Testimony of Raphael L. Podolsky

Recommended Committee action: REJECTION OF THE BILL

This bill would require that the Child Support Guidelines be updated every two years. This is simply impractical. The Guidelines Commission cannot really start its periodic review until the newest version of the Guidelines has been in effect for a reasonable period of time. Once started, the updates, which I have monitored over the last decade, are extraordinarily detailed and time-consuming and necessarily extend over many months. The Commission has always taken its job seriously and has in the past reviewed both the experience under the Guidelines and the national literature on the subject. It also invites significant public input. Once approved by the Commission, the Guidelines must then go through the regulations review process, which is itself time-consuming.

Requiring a more frequent re-write of the Guidelines will impose a tremendous work benefit with no real benefit. In our opinion, the present quadrennial schedule is adequate and practicable, and there is no reason to change it.