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To: Senate Co-Chair Andrew McDonald
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House Ranking Member Arthur O'Neill
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Judge James J. Lawlor
Probate Court Administrator

Re: RB 605 An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Openness

Date: March 10, 2008

I appreciate the opportunity to support RB 605 An Act Concerning Judicial Branch Openness insofar as it pertains to the Office of the Probate Court Administrator in section 12. My office shall remain silent on the remainder of the bill considering it is a larger, more global plan and our role in the entire bill is a minor one. In doing so, I do not speak on behalf of the Judicial Branch, nor do I have the authority to do so.

Section 12 outlines a new process for approving and appointing subsequent Probate Court Administrators. I understand the wisdom inherent in such a policy change. I have always endeavored to maintain an open and sincere relationship with the legislature, particularly the Judiciary Committee. That relationship has led to much success in improving the probate system and modernizing the way the courts do business. It is critical that future Administrators maintain that line of communication and are held to the same level of accountability.