



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 17, 2008**

**House Bill 5921, An Act Concerning Reasonable Efforts To Prevent A
Child's Or Youth's Removal From The Custody Of
A Parent Or Guardian**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in support of **House Bill 5921, An Act Concerning Reasonable Efforts to Prevent a Child's or Youth's Removal from the Custody of a Parent or Guardian**. This bill, which is part of the Judicial Branch's legislative package, would bring Connecticut into compliance with the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) which requires a court finding that reasonable efforts have been made to prevent a child's removal within 60 days of their actual removal from the home.

Under current Connecticut law, a reasonable efforts finding must be made within 60 days of the courts' ex parte order removing the child from the home. However, a child could, and often times is, removed from the home initially on a 96 hour hold issued by the Department of Children and Families. This proposal merely provides that the reasonable efforts finding must be made within 60 days of the latter, not the former. This technical change would bring us into conformance with ASFA.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.