



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 3, 2008**

**Senate Bill 328, An Act Concerning Compensation of Jurors**

Good afternoon. My name is Stephen Ment and I am here to testify on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to **Senate Bill 328, An Act Concerning Compensation of Jurors**. This bill would establish a graduated scale for employers to reimburse jurors during jury service.

Currently, full-time employed jurors are paid their regular wages by their employers for the first five days of jury service. Beginning on the sixth day of juror service, all jurors are paid \$50.00 per day by the state. The overwhelming percentage of jurors - 98% - completes their jury service in five days, never triggering the \$50.00 pay out by the state. In fact, 93% of all jurors complete their jury service in one day.

This bill would increase the burden on the juror's employer by mandating the employer pay for additional days of an employee's jury service based on the size of the business. While well-intentioned, the Judicial Branch is concerned that such a measure may make it more likely that jurors who work for larger organizations are selected for more serious or lengthy trials because they are less likely to claim economic hardship. This could adversely impact the representative-ness of juries. In light of the fact that so few jurors would potentially benefit from this legislation - less than 2% in 2007 - the Judicial Branch respectfully submits that this bill may not worth the potential upset to the jury pool.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.