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**Written Testimony IN FAVOR OF BILL No. 30
LCO 595 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER
PRIVACY AND IDENTITY THEFT**

Cheryl diane Feuerman, February 26, 2008

Being unable to attend today's hearing, I am writing to urge your support of Bill No. 30 LCO 595 which would strengthen Connecticut's identity theft law.

I am a senior staff attorney for Connecticut Legal Services, Inc., (CLS) and the Project Manager of CLS' Consumer Law Project for Elders (CLPE). The CLPE provides legal assistance, free of charge, to seniors through-out the State of Connecticut who have consumer problems. Over the past six years the CLPE has helped thousands of seniors with their consumer problems.

Many of the consumer matters we see involve a Connecticut senior in over her head with debt. Too often, this debt is a result of identity theft by a stranger, or more sadly, a family member. Favorable results in such cases are extremely rare. The solution to this crime, therefore, is to make it harder to commit. In order to more effectively combat this crime, Connecticut needs to strengthen the law addressing it. The legislation before you does just that, in part, by expanding the definition of identity theft, strengthening both criminal penalties and civil remedies and increasing protections for personal information.

Statistics show that Identity theft becomes more prevalent each. Legislation that increases the penalties faced by perpetrators and strengthens protection of personal information is vital to help control this crime. I strongly urge you to support **BILL No. 30 LCO 595 AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY AND IDENTITY THEFT.**

Thank you for your consideration.
Cheryl Diane Feuerman
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