



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Stephen Ment  
Human Services Committee Public Hearing  
February 26, 2008**

**House Bill 5620, An Act Raising The Child Support Age Limit**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to House Bill 5620, *An Act Raising the Child Support Age Limit*. The bill purports to require child support for a child through the age of twenty-one.

As members of the Committee may be aware, in IV-D child support cases, the Judicial Branch's Support Enforcement Services unit is responsible for monitoring child support awards for compliance with financial, medical insurance, and child care orders, as well as initiating court-based enforcement actions such as income withholdings and contempt applications when appropriate.

While House Bill 5620 seemingly raises the age for child support to age 21, we believe that it actually does so for IV-D cases alone. Thus, the bill would result in three different legal schemes for supporting ones' children: 1) for children in IV-D cases, support to age 21, 2) in non-IV-D cases, if the parents are unmarried, to age 18, or 3) if the parents were married and divorced subsequent to 1994, the obligation to support would continue until completion of high school or the child turning 19. The end result of this legislation would be fragmented and disparate legal requirements for child support in Connecticut.

Additionally, the bill ignores the reality of emancipation by many 18-21 year olds, and presumes dependency. It is also unclear as to whether the bill negates existing support agreements.

Should the Committee favorably report this bill, we would respectfully request that it be referred to the Appropriations Committee for consideration of the additional staff and resources that would be necessary to handle increased caseloads associated with the establishment, enforcement, and modification of child support orders.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.