



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Deborah J. Fuller
Judiciary Committee
March 20, 2008**

Senate Bill 35, An Act Concerning the Registration of Sexual Offenders

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding **Senate Bill 35, An Act Concerning the Registration of Sexual Offenders**. We have some concerns with the bill, as drafted, which we hope can be addressed as the bill moves forward. I have listed our concerns below:

- Subsection (b) of section 7 would require any registrant who is on probation or parole to provide to the Commissioner of Public Safety the name, office location and telephone number of his or her probation or parole officer. Although it is not specifically addressed by the language, it appears that this information would go on the Sex Offender Registry and thereby be available to the public. There is no doubt that this will result in increased calls to the probation officers, as well as an increase in the investigations into claims of noncompliance that the probation officer will need to perform. We would be happy to discuss with the proponents of this bill alternative language that will alleviate our concerns but also facilitate communication with probation staff.
- Subsection (e) of section 7 states that registrants must produce their motor vehicle operator's license or identity cards upon the request of a sworn member of an organized local, state or federal law enforcement agency. We would suggest that probation officers be added to this subsection, as they are not defined as "sworn members of a law enforcement agency" and they will need this authority to perform their duties under subsection (g).
- Subsection (g) requires that all registrants appear periodically in person at a prescribed office of the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division. The purpose of this reporting is to have an updated photograph taken and to

update and verify their registration information. (There appears to be an erroneous reference to section 54-256 on line 668; I believe it should refer to section 7 of the bill.) This includes all registrants, not just those who are under probation supervision. Tier I registrants must report annually, Tier II registrants must report every six months, and Tier III registrants must appear every 90 days. Transients must report every 15 days. This will add a significant burden to our probation offices and they will need additional staff to handle this responsibility.

- Section 9 allows DPS to disseminate certain registration information for law enforcement purposes only. It is unclear whether this would allow it to be disseminated to the Court Support Services Division. We would recommend the addition of a specific reference to CSSD, as probation officers will need this information to perform their duties.
- We would suggest that the Chief Court Administrator or a designee be added to the membership of the newly created Sex Offender Registry Policy Advisory Board. The issues that this Board will deal with go beyond the purview of the Court Support Services Division.
- The restriction on dissemination of a registrant's social security number that is contained in section 12 may not be workable for the Judicial Branch. That information is provided by the police at arrest, is in the file and is currently publicly available for all arrested persons, including sex offenders.
- Finally, we would respectfully request an amendment to lines 947-948 of the bill, which contains current language requiring the clerk of the court to provide to DPS a written summary of the offense. We would ask that this responsibility be transferred from the clerk's offices to the state's attorneys. The clerks do not have the information necessary to perform this task; the state's attorneys do. Moreover, the Office of the Chief State's Attorney has agreed to having the state's attorneys take on this responsibility. Please see below language that would accomplish this change.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I appreciate your consideration of these concerns.

Suggested Amendment:

Amend lines 947 as follows:

as amended by this act, , the [court] state's attorney for the judicial district in which the offense was committed shall provide to the Department of