



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Human Services Committee Public Hearing
March 3, 2009**

**Senate Bill 843, An Act Implementing The Governor's Budget
Recommendations Concerning Social Services**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in support of Section 63 of Senate Bill 843, *An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning Social Services*.

Section 63 of the bill would authorize the increase of special policemen within DSS' Bureau of Child Support Enforcement from four to six. Special policemen serve outstanding warrants against child support obligors, in addition to State Marshals. These warrants -- *capias mittimus* - are issued by the court only after repeated attempts to have the obligor come to court to address his or her delinquency have failed.

Increasing the number of special policemen will have a direct effect on child support collections, and thereby benefit custodial parents and children, because past statistics have proven that an arrested parent will pay nearly \$2000, on average, in child support after their arrest. In cases without *capias* execution, however, most families receive little or no court ordered child support. Thus, we strongly support this provision.

Briefly, regarding Section 26 (c) of the bill, we would just like to respectfully note that a defendant generally has thirty days from the return date to respond to a complaint, not thirty days from when the complaint is served.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.