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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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Testimony of the Deborah J. Fuller

**Insurance and Real Estate Committee Public Hearing
February 10, 2009**

Raised Bill 821, An Act Concerning Marital and Family Therapists

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch on **Raised Bill 821, AAC Marital and Family Therapists**. We have serious concerns about the impact that this proposal could have on court business.

This bill would eliminate the requirement of health insurance reimbursement for services rendered by marital and family therapists. The effect would be to diminish the service capacity of the private for-profit and non-profit contractor networks that are utilized by the Judicial Branch. This would negatively impact the courts. Currently, the Judicial Branch contracts with private providers for programs such as Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT), Juvenile Risk Reduction Centers (JRRC) and Court Based Assessments, among others. Many of these programs employ persons with MFT degrees. In addition, the court would no longer be able to make referrals to private agencies or therapists with MFT credentials; this would require the court to use other master level service providers that may not have built solid and credible reputations with the judges, lawyers and court personnel.

Because of these concerns, we urge the committee not to act favorably on this proposal.