



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of the Deborah J. Fuller

Insurance and Real Estate Committee Public Hearing
February 17, 2009

Raised Bill 894, An Act Concerning Disclosure of Automobile Liability Insurance
Policy Limits Prior to the Filing of a Claim

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding Raised Bill 894, *Act Disclosure of Automobile Liability Insurance Policy Limits Prior to the Filing of a Claim*. We respectfully request that section 2 of this proposal be deleted, as the Branch would be unable to comply with its mandate.

Section 2 would require the Branch to submit a report by January 1, 2011 to the General Assembly specifying the number of automobile injury cases settled as a result of the disclosure required by section 1 of the bill. The Judicial Branch would not have that information and thus would be unable to file such a report. The statement of purpose is, "To allow injured parties to obtain information about a tortfeasor's liability insurance policy limits without being required to file an action in court..." The courts have no knowledge of claims or conflicts prior to a case being filed, and therefore would have no way of knowing how many of them never make it to court, let alone the reason. In addition, even for those cases settled after a case has been filed, the reason for settlement is not known by the courts. These cases appear in the statistics as simple withdrawals.

For this reason, we request that the Committee not act favorably on section 2 of this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.