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Testimony of Shirley M. Pripstein, Chairperson,
Family Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association
In opposition to Section 22 of House Bill 6710
An Act Concerning Court Operations
Judiciary Committee
March 26, 2009

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor, members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to file written comments with respect to House Bill 6710, An Act Concerning Court Operations. The Family Law Section of the CBA consists of over 800 members who have a great interest in bills affecting the practice of family law. The Family Law Section opposes Section 22 of House Bill No. 6710, An Act Concerning Court Operations. On behalf of the Connecticut Bar Association Family Law Section, I respectfully request the Judiciary Committee to **amend House Bill 6710, by deleting Section 22** from the bill.

House Bill 6710 is a lengthy Judicial Branch bill with twenty-three sections. Our concern is with Section 22 only. This section would require the court to include in every court order concerning visitation "a detailed statement on the conditions and obligations of the non-custodial parent with respect to such visitation."

We believe that only a small minority of cases requires the court to specify the obligations of the non-custodial parent during visitation, and that the courts do make appropriate orders when the situation dictates. To require the court to make orders specifying the obligations of the non-custodial parent in every case would be a waste the time and valuable resources of the court and counsel and would serve no useful purpose.

In essence, section 22 seeks to give the custodial parent, through the court, control over the behavior of the non-custodial parent during his or her time with the children. This is something that cannot be accomplished. Neither parent can control the behavior of the other. The court should not and does not utilize the tools at its disposal – fines, incarceration, and modification of the parenting plan provisions - for minor transgressions.

For these reasons, the Family Law Section of the Connecticut Bar respectfully requests that the Judiciary Committee **amend** House Bill 6710, An Act Concerning Court Operations, by **deleting Section 22** from the bill. Thank you for your consideration.