



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

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**Testimony of the Deborah J. Fuller
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 6, 2009**

S.B. 543, An Act Concerning Sentence Review

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch on Senate Bull 543, *An Act Concerning Sentence Review*. We are concerned about the impact that this proposal would have on the courts.

I would point out that although the bill is entitled "An Act Concerning Sentence Review", it does not amend the sentence review statutes (C.G.S. 54-194 - 54-197), but amends the sentence modification statutes. Because it eliminates the requirement that state's attorneys agree to sentence modifications for sentences of more than three years, this proposal would lead to many more hearings. We are concerned that the courts will be flooded with modification requests, and about our ability to handle these cases within existing resources.

While there is a gap between the sentence modification and sentence review statutes, we would respectfully submit that this proposal is not the appropriate way to address that gap.

Thank you for your consideration.