



*Office of Chief Public Defender
State of Connecticut*

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**Testimony of
Susan O. Storey
Chief Public Defender**

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 26, 2009**

Senate Resolution No. 46, Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State Concerning the Procedures of the Courts

The Office of Chief Public Defender is opposed to *Senate Joint Resolution No. 46, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of the State Concerning the Procedures of the Courts*. The Connecticut State Constitution was designed to provide a system of checks and balances among our three branches of government. An independent judiciary, free from political pressures, has always been regarded as fundamental to a democratic society and an important protection for Connecticut citizens.

Senate Joint Resolution 46 would serve to undermine the independence of Connecticut's judiciary by removing their rule-making authority and placing it within the authority of the Legislative Branch. While legislators have the authority to make the laws, judges should continue to have the independence to fairly and impartially interpret the law and enact rules of court without the influence of the Executive or Legislative Branch.