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Good morning Chairmen McDonald and Lawlor, Ranking Members Kissel and O'Neill and Members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here today to testify in support of two bills: **Committee Bill Number 674: An Act Concerning Local Expenditures Related to the Change in the Age of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction** and **Governor's Bill Number 6386: An Act Delaying the Implementation of Legislation Raising the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction.**

These two bills incorporate an important House Republican Caucus proposal to delay the implementation of the "raise the age" legislation.

Like many other proposals before us this session, as well as laws that are already on the books, expanding juvenile jurisdiction of courts is a laudable idea. However, as we are all aware, Connecticut, along with the rest of the nation, is facing an economic crisis. Therefore, we must examine any and all avenues to save money. We need to provide relief to municipalities and ease burdens on the state budget. It is our responsibility as legislators to seek ways to reduce unfunded mandates on municipalities.

Implementation of raise the age has a number of implications for municipalities. Treating sixteen and seventeen year olds as juveniles rather than adults will place significant costs onto local police departments. These costs include the need for additional staff, training, and potential modification of facilities. A delay in these costs would allow municipalities additional time to prepare for these changes.

Further, the Judicial Department, the Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Public Defender, along with other state agencies, face increased costs with the implementation of "raise the age". According to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, a delay in the implementation of the juvenile jurisdiction age change would save the state $95 million in the 2010-2011 Biennium. This is clearly a significant savings in a time when Connecticut is facing a 1.3 billion dollar deficit.

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I urge the Judiciary Committee to pass Committee Bill Number 674 and Governor's Bill Number 6386 to delay the implementation of the raise the age legislation until January 1, 2012. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to save the state of Connecticut a significant amount of money during these economic hard times.