



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF THE
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

PAUL J. KNIERIM, JUDGE
Probate Court Administrator

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To: Senate Co-Chair Andrew McDonald
House Co-Chair Michael Lawlor
Senate Ranking Member John Kissel
House Ranking Member Arthur O'Neill
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

From: Paul J. Knierim, Judge
Probate Court Administrator

Re: HB 6629 An Act Concerning Guardians Ad Litem and
Conservatorships

Date: March 9, 2009

The Office of the Probate Court Administrator opposes this bill.

The appointment of a guardian ad litem to represent the interests of minors, unborn or unascertained parties, and individuals with cognitive disabilities has long been a matter resting in the discretion of the courts. While the power to appoint a guardian ad litem must be exercised sparingly, the appointment is sometimes essential to protect the interests of a party.

We would be pleased to assist the Committee if it wishes to explore guidelines to assist judges in the determination of whether the appointment of a guardian ad litem is appropriate in a particular case.