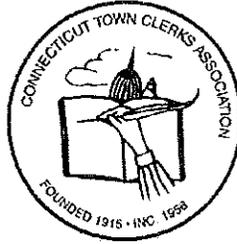


# *Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.*

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## *2010 Legislative Committee*

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Written Testimony  
Wednesday, March 17, 2010  
Government Administration and Elections Committee

### **SB 328: AN ACT CONCERNING NOTARIES PUBLIC**

Many town clerks and their staff are registered notaries public and perform notary duties as part of their daily office routine to assist the public in acknowledging their signature and/or to attest to their statement.

Our association **opposes SB 328: An Act Concerning Notaries Public**. This act would limit the discretion that a notary exercises to determine whether to notarize a document. Currently, town clerks make reasonable decisions when refusing to notarize a document. For example, they will not perform a notary act for a family member and they will not perform a notary act if a person asks too many advisory questions where any answer may help to influence the requestor's decision to sign.

Also, town clerks are unique in that they are the keeper of the land records for their respective towns. Refusal to notarize a document may conflict with this duty. For example: many land record documents require notarized signatures; therefore as common practice, clerks do not notarize documents that may be recorded on their land records such as deeds, mortgages, powers of attorneys, affidavits involving real estate, and name changes to simply prevent a possible conflict of interest from occurring in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Strauss  
CTCA Legislative Chair  
Westport Town Clerk