



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
February 26, 2010**

**House Bill 5251, An Act Concerning Payment Of The Costs Of Forensic
Sexual Assault Evidence Examinations**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 5251, *An Act Concerning Payment of the Costs of Forensic Sexual Assault Evidence Examination*. This bill transfers the responsibility for payment of the costs incurred by health care facilities for forensic sexual assault evidence examinations from the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) to the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services (OVS).

The practical effect of this bill is to simply codify the legislature's intent demonstrated in *September Special Session, Public Act No. 09-7, An Act Implementing the Provisions of the Budget Concerning General Government and Making Changes to Various Programs*. In this public act, the annual sum of \$1,021,060 was transferred from DCJ to OVS for the purpose of payment of forensic sex evidence exams for the current fiscal year and the next. It is our expectation that we will continue to receive funding for this purpose.

As the Branch has already assumed the responsibility for payment of the costs, we support this conforming proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.