



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 19, 2010**

**House Bill 5524, An Act Concerning Criminal Records  
And Sentence Review**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to section 4 of House Bill 5524, *An Act Concerning Criminal Records and Sentence Review*. This section removes the prohibition excluding individuals who agree to their sentence by virtue of a plea agreement from subsequently filing for review of their sentence with the Judicial Branch's Sentence Review Division (SRD). We are concerned with the impact that this proposal would have on the courts.

If enacted, this change would dramatically increase the number of applications - currently numbering nearly 200 annually - filed with SRD. For example, in 2009, there were more than 1400 sentences imposed in excess of three years; if this bill were to pass, it is likely that many, if not most, defendants agreeing to their plea would now pursue a review of their sentence. This would overwhelm our existing resources, as we would need additional staff to process these applications, and more court sessions to handle the review. Furthermore, it is not entirely clear why this change is necessary. Defendants who do not believe the plea agreement is equitable do not have to accept it.

Briefly, in regards to section 1, please note that the proposed language does not include all erased information. If that is the intent, we respectfully suggest that it be amended to include nollees that are erased after 13 months.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to section 4. If it is the will of the Committee to act favorably upon it, we would respectfully request that this bill be referred to the Appropriations Committee.