

To: The Connecticut General Assembly,

From: Alfred M. Vagnini, 1171 Straits Turnpike, Middlebury, CT 06762

Date: March 10, 2010

Re: CGA Bill No. 5399

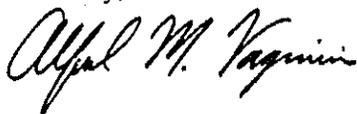
My name is Alfred Vagnini, age 49, and I am a life-long resident of Connecticut. I wish to address the above-referenced Bill regarding repayment for services to the Department of Social Services. Specifically, I want to address the notification of any potential liability to third parties. Below are some facts regarding my particular situation:

- I have one son, Christopher (Hutchinson) Vagnini.
- His mother is Melony Hutchinson.
- Melony and I were never married.
- Christopher was born June 14, 1987.
- I began paying Melony child support in 1988, retroactively from Christopher's birth.
- I paid the court-ordered amount in full until Christopher came to live with me at age 15.
- At that time the order was vacated and I did not seek support from Melony going forward.
- It was upon attempting to refinance my home I found a lien had been placed on my property.
- My attorney looked into the source of the lien and found it to be from the State of CT DSS in an amount in excess of \$11,000.
- I had no idea as to the basis for the lien and when my attorney received the information from DSS, he told me it was to reclaim State assistance monies that had been paid to Melony.
- I had absolutely no knowledge, before or after the fact, of Melony applying for or receiving State assistance or that any potential liability on my behalf existed. As far as I knew, my court-ordered support obligation for my son had been completely fulfilled.

The above summary illustrates the simple fact that, under current law, I am being held liable for a debt of which I had absolutely no knowledge. I cannot think of another example in American life where someone is liable, or even potentially liable for a debt that they are not informed of when it is incurred. This is a disheartening and unsettling prospect. I feel that this practice is unconstitutional and it is my hope that the law could be changed to fairly inform any and all parties of potential liability for repayment to DSS at the time of said liability's inception.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this matter to the lawmakers of our great State and I look forward to seeing this law changed in fairness to all parties involved.

Sincerely,



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