

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
February 23, 2010

Testimony of Carolyn Signorelli
Chief Child Protection Attorney

RB No. 138 Opposed as Written



Commission on Child Protection
State of Connecticut

Office of the Chief Child Protection Attorney

Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and esteemed Committee Members. my name is Carolyn Signorelli, Chief Child Protection Attorney for the State of Connecticut. I head the Commission on Child Protection, the agency responsible for the system of legal representation for children and parents in cases of abuse, neglect and termination of parental rights brought by DCF

Raised Bill No. 138, AN ACT CONCERNING MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT IN JUVENILE COURT MATTERS, should not be passed as it is currently written. The rights at stake in juvenile court proceedings; a parent's to the care and custody of his or her child and the child's right to family integrity, are of a constitutional magnitude and should not be capable of state interference through summary proceedings. All parents and children should have a right to a trial in the event the Department of Children and Families seeks to interfere with the family relationship. While I understand that the intent of the proposal may be to enable parents and children to have a baseless petition summarily dismissed, the way this bill currently reads, the Motion for Summary Judgment will be used against families to deny them a right to a trial.

I therefore respectfully request that you to vote against this proposal.
Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Respectfully Submitted,

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