



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Human Services Committee Public Hearing
March 9, 2010

Senate Bill 219, An Act Concerning State Contract Reductions

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to *Senate Bill 219, An Act Concerning State Contract Reductions*. This bill would permit private service providers to adjust their budget expenditures without state agency approval when funding has been reduced.

The effect of Senate Bill 219 would be to eliminate a vital oversight function of state government. The Judicial Branch has a keen interest in ensuring that a service providers' remaining resources are deployed in a manner that best serves the needs of those referred, consistent with orders of the court, and to ensure that the provider does not reduce program staffing to an unacceptable level. Having the ability to mandate a revised proposed budget and/or a contract negotiation process best meets our needs, the needs of the individuals being served by the provider, and ensures that the State's money is being spent wisely. Passage of the bill would remove this critical level of oversight.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to this bill.