

TESTIMONY OF GREGORY J. CAVA IN SUPPORT OF RAISED HOUSE BILL 5148

I am Gregory J. Cava, an attorney at law licensed in the State of Connecticut and engaged in the private practice of law from my offices in Roxbury, Connecticut in Litchfield County. I am here this morning because I strongly support full funding of the Judicial Branch and in particular, passage of Raised House Bill 5148 and thank the Committee for this opportunity.

I was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1983 and practiced first as an associate attorney (1983-1989) and then as an equity owner (partner) (1990-2007) with the firm of Zeldes Needle & Cooper, PC in Bridgeport. In 2007, I opened my own solo practice. In this day and age, solos must practice very lean in order to survive. Our clients are individuals, and the bread and butter of small, and in my case, sometimes large, business entities. Even if I had the bricks and mortar to store a large law library, I could not even imagine how I would afford the cost of providing and maintaining one. I make due with computer assisted legal research, provided as a benefit of membership to all members of the Connecticut Bar Association, and rely heavily on the law libraries in the Courthouses. As you know, Litchfield County is rural. My home and office is roughly equidistant from the Danbury, Litchfield and Waterbury JD Courthouses, which is to say, all are equally inconvenient. The prospect of library closings will be devastating to me because often-times I must do the research necessary at a law library at whatever Courthouse I happen to be in for Monday short calendar, whether it be Derby, Milford, Bridgeport, Stamford, Danbury, Litchfield, Hartford, etc. The realities of solo practice do not permit me the luxury of a special trip to a courthouse that happens to have an open library, especially when it may take me 45 minutes or more to get there.

An equally compelling if not more critical reason to support 5148, the loss of full funding for the Judicial Branch will inevitably mean lessening access to judges, and hence justice, for my clients. With the cost of litigation rising to levels that make civil justice available only to the poor and the wealthy, having available the services of judges as mediators can make all the difference in settling disputes in a timely, and for the clients, a cost-effective manner. I know resources are strained at this difficult time, but justice delayed is justice denied. We are blessed in this State with common-sense judges who bring fairness and reasonableness to bear in deciding and settling disputes. Failure to provide full funding of the Judicial Department, of necessity, makes this much needed resource and invaluable commodity more remote from the very people who need it most. I urge you to fully fund the Judicial Department and to pass Raised House Bill 5148.

Thank you again for your time and attention.

GREGORY J. CAVA

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