



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Deborah J. Fuller  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
February 26, 2010**

**Senate Bill 229, An Act Concerning the Pretrial Supervised Diversionary  
Program for Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, on behalf of the Judicial Branch, on Senate Bill 229, *An Act Concerning the Pretrial Supervised Diversionary Program for Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities*. We support the substance of this proposal but are requesting that the language be amended.

This bill would make some fairly technical changes to the Pretrial Supervised Diversionary Program statute in order to conform it to the practice that has developed since the program began in October 2008. It would limit the period of probation that can be imposed under the program, which is currently open-ended, to two years. It would also delete the reference in subsection (d) to "treatment plan" and replace it with "a plan for services and treatment", because formal treatment plans are not generally available at this stage in the process. The Judicial Branch supports these changes.

We do have concerns with some of the new language in subsection (d) and would request substitute language. We have not drafted an amendment at this time, as we would like to have an opportunity to work with representatives of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to craft language that is mutually agreeable.

Thank you for your consideration.