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Testimony of the Association of Connecticut Lobbyists Regarding Senate Bill 487, *An Act Concerning the Unauthorized Practice of Law*

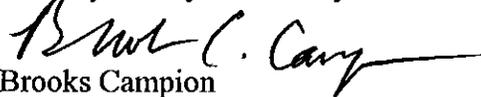
Joint Committee on Judiciary
March 26, 2010

Distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, on behalf of the over 170 members of the Association of Connecticut Lobbyists (“ACL”) we submit the following brief comments regarding Senate Bill 487. We appreciate the important intent of this legislation but ask that you consider making one simple but important amendment.

As many of you are aware, Connecticut lobbyists come in many shapes and sizes. As such we are identified in a number of ways with respect to the application of the Code of State Ethics, including communicator lobbyist, client lobbyist, and in-house communicator lobbyist. We are concerned specifically about the narrow reference to a “legislative lobbyist,” in Section 1 (b) (6) on line 73. Because many of us engage in lobbying before the General Assembly AND before Executive Branch agencies, we are concerned that the bill would limit our ability to engage in administrative lobbying by its silence on that form of lobbying. For context, when we make our monthly, quarterly and year-end reports on our lobbying activities to the Office of State Ethics, we are required to report separately on administrative lobbying activities and legislative lobbying activities.

It is our hope that it was not your intention to limit our ability to lobby the Executive Branch when drafting the bill and therefore request that you either remove the word “legislative” on line 73 or add the words “an administrative and or” before “legislative” on the same line to make clear that our administrative and legislative lobbying work meets the bill’s definition of permissible work.

Thank you very much for your consideration.


Brooks Campion
President