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Testimony of Houston Putnam Lowry,
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House Bill 6608, An Act Adopting the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act
Judiciary Committee
March 25, 2011

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to file written testimony concerning House Bill 6608, An Act Adopting the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act. The Connecticut Bar Association ("CBA") **supports** passage of House Bill 6608 and notes that in addition to the CBA, the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act is supported by the American Bar Association, the American Arbitration Association, the National Academy of Arbitrators and the National Arbitration Forum. It has been adopted by Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

The Revised Uniform Arbitration Act is an update by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws ("NCCUSL") on the original 1956 Uniform Arbitration Act. Although Connecticut never adopted the original Uniform Arbitration Act, Connecticut's statute bears a strong resemblance to the final NCCUSL product. The revision primarily codifies existing case law and progressively develops the law of arbitration¹ without violating existing federal law on the subject.²

The following are important new features of the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act:

1. **Electronic Agreements.** The bill enforces agreements to arbitrate that appear in electronic documents (§1(6) and §6(a)). This is in accordance with Connecticut's enactment of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.³
2. **Applying to court does not waive arbitration.** The bill clarifies that a party may apply to a court for relief without automatically waiving their right to arbitrate as provided in their agreement (§6, Uniform Law comment 5).

¹ Connecticut General Statutes §52-408, *et seq.*

² 9 USC §1, *et seq.*

³ Connecticut General Statutes §1-266, *et seq.*