

Connecticut Town Clerks Association, Inc.

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2011 Legislative Committee

Written Testimony Senate Bill 1234,

An Act Concerning Nondisclosure of Residential Addresses of Certain Public Officials and Employees Judiciary Committee – Public Hearing Friday, April 8, 2011

Good morning, Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Hetherington and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Joseph V. Camposeo, President of the Connecticut Town Clerks Association and the Town Clerk of Manchester. "Raised Bill No. 1234" calls for a change that will clarify the disclosure of residential address of some public employees. Passage of this bill would cause significant disruption to the way public records are processed and accessed.

Openness to public records casts an assurance that all citizens have accountability with government to be informed and to avoid secrecy.

This legislation which applies only to "certain public officials and employees." eliminates the Constitutional rights of others to view public information.

The removal of these rights also will cause a significant effect on the integrity of public records. For example, what are the value of "Grand Lists" and "Deeds" without knowing ones address? Our entire system of property ownership depends upon the accuracy and verifiability of public records. Federal laws have been enacted in every state to ensure that there is uniformity and consistency for everyone's rights of access.

And what about the effect this "Bill" would have on commerce. The banking industry and many other stakeholders in the real estate process are most dependent on the accuracy of land data including addresses. How can a police officer or judicial employee possibly get a mortgage if their right of ownership cannot be readily identified?

In addition, the implementation of this legislation will be very costly to municipalities in order to acquire and maintain redaction and other software needed to support the process.

We strongly recommend that you reject the intent of this legislation.