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Testimony of Shirley M. Pripstein,
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Senate Bill 1221, An Act Concerning Paternity and Child Support Obligations
Judiciary Committee
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Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, and members of the Judiciary Committee thank you for the opportunity to appear and comment on behalf of the CBA Family Law Section on Senate Bill 1221, An Act Concerning Paternity and Child Support Obligations. The Family Law Section of the CBA consists of over 800 members who have a great interest in bills affecting the practice of family law. The Family Law Section **opposes** Senate Bill 1221, and respectfully requests the Judiciary Committee **reject** this bill.

We agree that it is unjust to ascribe to child support arrearages to fathers for the long periods of time prior to an acknowledgement of paternity. That is why family law attorneys come to the legislature in 1983 to ask for the three year retroactivity limitation that is found at C.G.S. §172(c) (2). We have three concerns with the current bill.

- The proposed limitation and the limitation found in C.G.S. §172(c) (2) are not the same. The two sections should be consistent. There is no reason to have one retroactivity limitation for acknowledgements in Probate Court and another for acknowledgements in Magistrate's Court or Superior Court.
- We think that any retroactivity limitation should be numerical (i.e., giving in years or months) rather than based on whether the child's mother willfully concealed the fact of the child's birth or withheld visitation. The current language is an invitation to litigation and not in the best interest of anyone.
- We are absolutely opposed to language that would link the child support obligation to visitation in contravention at least 30 years of settled law in Connecticut. This is a road the legislature should not go down.

For these reasons, the CBA Family Law Section urges the Judiciary Committee to reject this bill.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.