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### Testimony in Opposition to Sections 19 through 24 of Governor's HB 5027

Chairman Slossberg, Chairman Morin, and the rest of the distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you about Governor's House Bill 5027.

My name is John Brandon, I am a licensed shorthand reporter and I am also the Chairman of the Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters – a board that bill 5027 seeks to eliminate in Sections 19 through 24. The Board oversees the testing licensing, and discipline for the reporters who transcribe the depositions, arbitrations, and hearings that take place in our state.

Court reporting is a unique business that requires unique skills: The ability to write on the computerized steno machine at speeds upwards of 225 words per minute, excellent language skills, proficiency with grammar and punctuation, professional appearance and demeanor, absolute punctuality, and a great sense of direction.

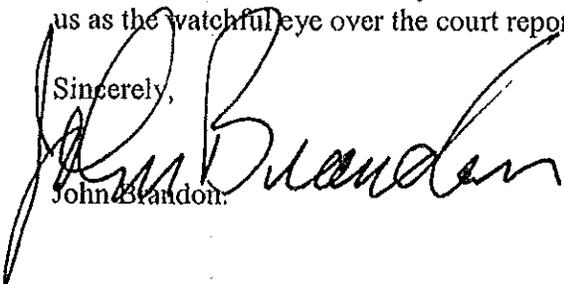
Our board costs the state close to nothing. All our members are volunteers, the only remuneration being mileage reimbursement, which I estimate totals less than \$200 annually. We make use of a small conference room at the state office building for an hour four times per year, the attention of an Assistant Attorney General for the same time, and one staff person from the Department of Consumer Protection ("DCP") at our meetings.

For this minimal investment the state gets the attention and dedication of three professional court reporters, a litigating attorney, and two public members, who handle complaints, monitor licensure, and make sure that unlicensed and unqualified court reporters are not allowed to operate in Connecticut.

As a representative of the DCP said to me at our last quarterly meeting this past Monday, "We have no one at DCP who knows anything about court reporting. We need your board to tell us the right things to do."

I believe that summarizes why it's so wrong to eliminate our board. Please vote to keep us as the watchful eye over the court reporting community in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

  
John Brandon