



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE  
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

PAUL J. KNIERIM, JUDGE  
Probate Court Administrator

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To: Senate Co-Chair Eric Coleman  
House Co-Chair Gerald Fox  
Senate Ranking Member John Kissel  
House Ranking Member John Hetherington  
Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

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From: Paul J. Knierim  
Probate Court Administrator

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Re: RB 5287 An Act Concerning the Appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem for a Person who is Subject to a Conservatorship Proceeding or a Proceeding Concerning Administration of Treatment for a Psychiatric Disability

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Date: March 5, 2012

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The Office of the As Probate Court Administrator supports this bill.

The appointment of a guardian ad litem to represent the interests of a respondent in conservatorship proceedings has long been a matter resting in the discretion of the probate courts. Courts should make such appointments sparingly, because the involvement of a guardian ad litem may add to the cost and complexity of the proceeding. At the same time, situations can and do arise in which the appointment of a guardian ad litem is essential to ensure that the outcome of the proceeding promotes the best interests of the conserved person.

My office has worked with the proponents of the bill to craft this language, which establishes reasonable guidelines for judges when appointing guardians ad litem. We urge the committee to approve the bill.