

My name is Doctor Matthew Brown. I am 49 years old and I live in West Hartford. I am a liver and kidney transplant surgeon, educated at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. As a major in the Army Reserves, I served two tours of active duty overseas in operation Iraqi Freedom. My divorce from my wife, now 47-years-old, and an experienced nurse, became final on Jan. 6 of this year.

My alimony obligation, in addition to my other court-ordered obligations, have left me with virtually no disposable income. I am about to get a roommate to share the expenses of my house with mortgage costs of \$4000.00 a month. I am going to begin riding my bicycle to work at Hartford Hospital because of the cost of filling my gas tank.

My wife and I have two children, ages 13 and 17, who now live with her in her home country, Canada. I just spent a week on vacation with my sons, and I had to pay for the vacation entirely with a credit card that I can only pay off slowly.

I am here in support of Raised Bill No. 5509, because of my experience with Connecticut's alimony laws and my alimony obligations for the next nine years. In addition to my alimony of \$130,000 per year, and my child support of \$636, (or \$32,552 tax free income annually) I still have student loan debt, and I was left with the marital home which is \$26,000 underwater. Despite having no liquid assets, I was also ordered to pay retroactive child support even though I was supporting a child living with me; pay my wife's Credit Card of \$10,000.00 and pay \$15,000.00 towards my wife's attorney fee. I have already paid all of our joint credit cards.

The combinations of the alimony, child support, taxes, debt retirement under any normal schedule of repayment leave me with Zero income.

As of today, I have \$175 left for the remainder of the month.

I was devastated when the court permitted my wife to move to Canada with my two children. Furthermore, here in Connecticut all she needed to do was take an exam to resume her nursing career and fulfill her earning capacity, the court permitted her to relocate, giving her three years of additional alimony support to work toward resuming her career as an RN in Canada. Even then, upon her becoming RN, the alimony awarded drops by

only \$26,000.00 per year, while her expected earnings will be over \$60,000 per year. In other words all my income is on the table, but only about 40 percent of hers will be counted toward supporting the family.

Also, as a transplant surgeon, I am required to spend as many as 24 hours continuously in the operating room. In 8 years it is unlikely that I will have the stamina to continue in this capacity. Can I expect to get a modification because my pay will go down? Unlikely. I have been advised that the court will say that I voluntarily took a lesser paying job.