



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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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

From: Paul J. Knierim
Probate Court Administrator

Re: RB 417, An Act Concerning Juvenile Matters and Permanent
Guardianships

Date: March 23, 2011

The Office of the Probate Court Administrator and the Probate Assembly support adoption of this bill.

The proposal is to establish an alternative to termination of parental rights. In the proper circumstances, permanent guardianship could benefit the child and the family by providing permanency without the trauma, expense and delay associated with contested proceedings for termination of parental rights. It would give courts the option of arranging a lasting placement — most often with another family member — while maintaining the child's familial ties with the biological parent.

On behalf of the probate court system, we urge the committee to favorably act on the bill. Thank you for your consideration.