



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment**  
**Select Committee on Children Public Hearing**  
**March 1, 2012**

**Senate Bill 194, An Act Concerning the Postponement of  
Jury Duty for Breastfeeding Mothers**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to *Senate Bill 194, An Act Concerning the Postponement of Jury Duty for Breastfeeding Mothers*.

The Judicial Branch respectfully suggests that this bill is unnecessary. Under existing law, any person who receives a notice to appear for jury service can postpone their date to a time that is more convenient for them, within ten months of the original date. The bill would increase this by two months exclusively for breastfeeding mothers. From an operational standpoint, Jury Administration does not have a mechanism to know for certain who is a breastfeeding mother. From an equity standpoint, this proposal would open up the door for other classes of individuals to seek a similar benefit.

The Judicial Branch is cognizant of the unique needs created when a breastfeeding mother is summoned for jury service and has taken measures to accommodate those needs. Many courthouses have rooms set aside for nursing mothers. In instances where there is not a room specifically designated, court staff work to provide the individual with an appropriate accommodation. We appreciate the sacrifice that jury service entails, and welcome phone calls prior to one's date of service informing us of any special needs.

Finally, in addition to the ability to postpone, any individual summoned may seek to be exempted from jury service if serving will present an extreme hardship for them.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that the Committee take no action on this bill.