



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

Testimony of Deborah J. Fuller
Planning and Development Committee
Public Hearing
February 22, 2012

House Bill 5035, An Act Reducing Mandates for Municipalities

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch on *House Bill 5035, An Act Reducing Mandates for Municipalities*.

The Judicial Branch is strongly opposed to section 1 of this proposal, which would severely weaken the protection currently provided to persons whose position or employment subjects them to an elevated risk of harm. The prohibition against disclosure of their home addresses was provided to judges and Judicial Branch employees in recognition of the fact that the work they do can subject them to an increased threat of danger and violence. This conclusion is not based on speculation – there have been numerous instances where judges and Judicial Branch employees have been subjected to threats of violence and, in some instances, actual violence. We believe that there is a continuing need to protect our judges and employees from dangers arising out of their employment.

We understand that concerns have been raised by towns and cities, as well as a variety of other organizations, about the impact that the current statute has on their ability to conduct their business. However, we believe that language can be drafted to address these concerns while continuing to provide a measure of protection to judges, Judicial Branch employees and others listed in the statute. This language does not do that. We urge the Committee not to act favorably on this section as currently drafted.

Thank you for your consideration.