



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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Testimony
Representative Russell A. Morin
28th District, Wethersfield
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Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, I am here to testify in strong support of H.B. 6569 An Act Concerning Civil Actions and Subpoenas Filed to Harass an Individual or After Numerous Actions Against the Individual Have Been Dismissed. I would like to thank the chairmen and committee members for bringing this proposal forward for a public hearing.

I am here testifying before you today because this bill addresses a very real problem. I have constituents who are dealing with this issue right now. There are so many instances where victims of domestic violence or other types of crime are further victimized by the perpetrator of these crimes by being taken to court repeatedly for frivolous lawsuits. These families not only have to deal with the physical and mental pain caused by such a brutal act, but then have to continually be harassed in the court of law by the perpetrator over and over again.

These lawsuits can be very costly to the victim, in one case I am familiar with the costs the defendant has had to bear amounts to over \$20,000 and the cost continues to rise. The person that is bringing these frivolous and costly lawsuits continues to inflict untold psychological harm on the family involved. There needs to be a way to protect them from further harassment. There have been some instances where the perpetrator continued to file lawsuits while incarcerated for crimes committed against the family. To me, this was shocking. While I firmly believe that everyone should have the opportunity to prove their case in the court of law, but when it is done repeatedly and is dismissed repeatedly, it then becomes harassment. Let us work together to protect victims and families from this undue torture. We all have a solemn duty in this legislature to protect those that we serve. This is one prime example of fulfilling our mission.

I thank you for your consideration of this bill.