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## THE CONNECTICUT BAR ASSOCIATION

### THE FAMILY LAW SECTION

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing: 4/5/13**

**Raised Bill 1155: AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO STATUTES RELATING TO DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, LEGAL SEPARATION AND ANNULMENT.**

#### **The Family Law Section OPPOSES R.B. 1155**

1. **The Family Law Section is opposed to Raised Bill 1155 for a variety of reasons.** The Section has been discussing and polling its members on a variety of subjects throughout 2012 and 2013. The section is **overwhelmingly opposed** to Alimony guidelines and in particular the guidelines contained in RB 1155 Section 5, which seeks to amend C.G.S. 46b-82 by adding subsections (c) and (d). The percentages (40%, 20%, 30%) contained in Section 5 of R.B. 1155 have no basis either in research or data to support the need for alimony guidelines or percentages for use in such a diverse state as Connecticut and are mere guesses. The guidelines as presented improperly minimize the factors in 46b-82 (a) and elevate mandated guidelines in 46b-82(d) above all else. [why are we not similarly challenging the \$1,000,000 cutoff]
2. R.B. 1155 is extreme, complicated and proposes changes to multiple statutory provisions relating to property division, legal separation, arbitration, alimony, modification of alimony, child support, cohabitation, all without having been researched or studied. It was drafted with no input or backup from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the Connecticut Bar Association Family Law Section, Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, Hartford Legal Services, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence or the Legal Assistance Resource Center.
3. There is a consensus among many family law professionals in Connecticut that alimony guidelines are inappropriate and may in fact be discriminatory against women and/or the poor.
4. The arbitration provisions in Section 3 of R.B. 1155 are incomplete. The Family law Section has drafted an Arbitration Statute, which is much more comprehensive and user friendly for all of our citizens, both those who are self-represented and those represented by counsel. The Family Law Section's arbitration statute has been studied and drafted after multiple hours of meetings.
5. To the extent that any parts of R.B. 1155 are good, they should be broken down into separate bills and be reviewed on their own merits. This is the reason why R.B. 6688's recommendation for a Legislative Program Review and Investigation Committee is so important.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connecticut Bar Association, Family Law Section

Arnold H. Rutkin  
Former Chair and Member of the Executive Committee