



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
April 15, 2013

**Senate Bill 1158, An Act Concerning Victims Of Sexual Exploitation
And Human Trafficking**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to section 5 of **Senate Bill 1158, *An Act Concerning Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking***.

The Judicial Branch respectfully submits that section 5 of the bill is unnecessary. This section compels the Office of Victim Services (OVS) to conduct an analysis of the compensation and services provided to victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking to determine whether statutory changes are in order.

Presently, all qualifying crime victims are entitled to compensation and services under section 54-201 et seq. In an effort to further broaden the pool of qualifying individuals, the Judicial Branch has introduced a bill this year – **Senate Bill 870, *An Act Concerning Victim Compensation*** – that would, in part, extend compensation and services to those who suffer emotional harm. Senate Bill 870 was acted on favorably by the Judiciary Committee on March 13, 2013.

We note this bill in order to demonstrate the fact that OVS continually reviews the statutory framework that governs compensation and services, and makes recommendations to the Legislature when appropriate. In fact, nearly every legislative session, the Judicial Branch sponsors legislation that seeks to improve the operations of OVS and improve the services provided to victims. In light of the constant attention given to this section by the Judicial Branch, we would respectfully submit that the statutory mandate in section 5 is unnecessary.

Should the Committee act favorably on this bill, we would therefore ask that this section be stricken.

Thank you for your consideration.