



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

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**Testimony of Kendall Wiggin
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Concerning Senate Bill No. 235
"An Act Concerning Adoption of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act"**

**Judiciary Committee
February 13, 2013**

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Kendall Wiggin and I am the Connecticut State Librarian. I am here to speak in support of S.B. 235. Last year my office submitted a report to the Governor titled "Recommendations of the State Librarian for Establishing Standards and Guidelines for the Preservation and Authentication of Electronic Documents," pursuant to Public Act 11-150. One of the recommendations was the adoption of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). This is seen as an important part of our strategy to address the authentication and the long term preservation of electronic government information. Last year this committee raised Senate Bill No. 418 "An Act Adopting the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act and the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act." The bill was passed by the Senate on the last day of the Session, but it was not taken up by the House.

UELMA was approved by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in July 2011. Since then it has been enacted in California and Colorado. Currently 4 states, in addition to Connecticut, are considering its adoption. This Act provides states with an outcomes-based approach to the authentication and preservation of electronic records. UELMA addresses the critical need to effectively provide and manage electronic government information in a manner that guaranties trustworthiness and continued access. Senate Bill 235 would provide a consistent method by which electronic government documents could be designated as official.

I ask for your favorable action on Senate Bill 235 and that it be considered separately from any other uniform law legislation.