

TO: THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
SENATOR ERIC COLEMAN, REPRESENTATIVE GERALD FOX AND
MEMBERS OF THE JUDICAIRY COMMITTEE.

FROM: MICHAEL E. CASSELLO
WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT

DATE: 04 APRIL 2013

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BILLS 1155, 6688 & 6685

Good day, my name is Michael E. Cassello. I have come here today together in part of the national group of the National Parent's Organization. The Bills that you are hearing today are indicative that the Family Law/Divorce system in the State of CT is dramatically broken down and in much need of immediate reform. I will state that in all three of these Bills, we are reducing conflict, litigation and the animosity between parents; so that the lives of the children will not be irreparably harmed as they have been under todays' current system.

I have witnessed and live this firsthand. Our Bills before you are not perfect but are a start that can be built upon.

I am a hard working self-employed professional that has overcome much adversity and the challenges of a congenital birth defect. I have never and to this date have ever felt that my handicap has limited my opportunities at any point in my life. My proudest accomplishment is being a father of six bright children that have the best of qualities in both their parents. They thrive at school, have an incredible thirst for knowledge, are kind, polite and giving to their peers.

Sadly I have not seen/had visitation with two of my children since a long drawn out divorce, had been stripped of my rights as a parent, have been financially devastated by both a down economy and unnecessary litigation as well as being wrongly jailed.

Though I would like to think that I am somewhat educated, I was quickly dismissed and mistreated as a Pro Se within the system and quickly learned it is a true gentlemen's club.

My children had a GAL that in my opinion was less than adequate, never had followed up on any orders and never held accountable.

In closing be assured that my motives are strictly for the well- being of my children And the many just like them. It is ridiculous to think a parent would never want to be part of their child's life or provided for them. With that said, one is not conditional upon the other and this is why the need for reform. The system is broken and needs to be rebuilt. I stand before you in support for the changes in the statues recommended by the Reform Commission that are in Bill 1155, Bill 6688 as well as 6685 on Share Custody. I ask that you pass, it not only represents the start of modernizing but more importantly will produce much happier children.

Thank you