

Good Afternoon

My name is Patricia Saviano and I am the President of the Connecticut Association of Probate Clerks.

I am also the Chief Clerk of the Danbury Probate Court. I have worked in the Probate system for the past 38 years and I have seen a lot of changes. Some minor and some major.

There are approximately 300 probate clerks in Connecticut of which 214 are voting members of the Association. Today, I speak on behalf of those 214 regarding Raised Bill 6417.

This hearing came upon us too soon. The Association has had discussions with the Union but prior to a couple of weeks ago, we have not had any communication since August. The Association was not informed about this bill until very recently. We had no knowledge of the language being presented and because of that, I can not speak as to opinion of our members. We are presently in a fact finding and informational stage.

There has been interest in a Union and becoming State employees by some members, however, we are bound by our Bylaws and we need an Association vote. Absent that, I do not feel I can represent the wishes of all of our members adequately. To date, we have not documented that we have reached each and

every member as required. *by our Bylaws.*

The passage of the this bill would be a major change in our system and would significantly effect the lives of each and every probate clerk.

Without proper research and consideration by all clerks we would not be able to take a vote by the Association until our Annual Meeting on May 16th.

Due to the circumstances just outlined and because this bill would drastically change our working environment and would be a major change to our system, on behalf of the Connecticut Association of Probate Clerks, I respectfully request that this hearing be continued until after our May meeting so that we clerks can research it thoroughly and make an informative decision on whether we are in favor of the bill or opposed to it.

Thank you for your consideration.