



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Select Committee of  
Veterans' Affairs Public Hearing  
March 7, 2013

Senate Bill 930, An Act Concerning Servicemembers  
Civil Relief Act Proceedings

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to *Senate Bill 930, An Act Concerning Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Proceedings*. As drafted, the bill would allow for a service member to provide testimony in a family relations matter in any number of ways.

While the Judicial Branch is not conceptually opposed to this concept, we would respectfully submit that the bill is drafted too broadly in that it would allow for testimony to be presented via telephone or internet camera, in addition to videoconferencing.

In order to properly ensure that due process rights are protected for all parties, the court must be in a position to properly assess the testimony presented, and must also be properly satisfied that the testimony is authentic. We would note that telephonic testimony would not allow the court to witness the demeanor of the person testifying.

Should the Committee be inclined to act favorably on this bill, we would respectfully request that the bill be amended to reflect existing language found in C.G.S. 46b-15c.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this bill.