

STATE OF CONNECTICUT LEGISLATURE – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Public Hearing – 31 March 2014

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL 5524

My name is **Daniel M. Lynch**, born and raised in Waterbury and having now also lived in Trumbull for the last twenty years. I am a divorced father of two daughters, now 20 and 17 years old. While I have only been married once, I have already endured two divorce trials, as well as scores of post judgment hearings.

Although I have been and continue to be critical of the Connecticut Family Court system, and have been an advocate for reform of same – I testify today in support of the efforts of the Law Revision Commission and their recommendations for much needed alimony reform.

This bill now before your, while not fully addressing all shortfalls of our current statutes, does make notable and significant changes to alimony statutes especially with regards to consideration of tax consequences of alimony orders, a right-to-retain provision which reasonably shifts the burden of demonstrating need to the payee spouse, and also consideration for the impact of cohabitation in decreasing the need for support from a former spouse.

I will continue to work with others in addressing further reasonable changes that are needed, but strongly urge you to vote in favor of the language of this bill as currently drafted. My thanks to all members of the Law Revision Commission, as well as those other parents who have given their time and personal input to this important and ongoing process to improve our statutes for all families of our state.