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February 17, 2014

TO: Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee
Re: H.B. No. 5066, AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN
WORKERS' RIGHTS TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN

Dear Labor Committee:

My name is Evan Brunetti, and I am the Chief Clerk of the Farmington-Burlington Probate Court, and have been with the Probate Court since 2007. I am also the Vice President of the Connecticut Association of Probate Clerks (hereinafter "CAPC"). CAPC is a voluntary organization comprised of approximately 240 members; which is over 2/3 of the total 336 employees in the probate system. Our mission is to further and promote the interest of all clerks and probate court staff throughout the State of Connecticut through education, and advocacy.

As a representative of CAPC, I can testify that, of our membership, approximately 15% have expressed views in favor of the changes suggested in H.B. 5066. Identically, approximately 15% have expressed views against the changes in this Bill. Thus, leaving approximately 70% of our members silent and undecided on the complex issues. To say the least, CAPC membership remains divided and undecided on the proposed Bill. As a group, CAPC is bound by our Bylaws and because there is no clear majority either for or against this Bill, CAPC, as an organization must remain neutral.

That being said, the passage of this Bill would be a considerable change in our system and would significantly affect the lives of every clerk. It would drastically change our working environment and thus, I respectfully ask the Committee carefully consider the plight of all clerks when reviewing this Bill and its proposed changes. Furthermore, please think of what passage would mean to the Probate System as a whole. If the indecisiveness of our membership shows anything, it shows the gravity of these issues and their complexity. Personally, I think the system has experienced so much change in recent years, through a massive consolidation, that this proposed change will likely result in a cacophony of conflict and turmoil within the system, which would make our day-to-day activities that much harder to perform.

I should be clear, as a representative of CAPC; I cannot take a formal position as indicated above on behalf of our membership. As an individual, and a probate court employee, I personally oppose this Bill as premature.

On a final note, I feel it is necessary to inform the committee that CAPC was not a part of the creation nor development of this particular Bill and so we can only assume it is being proposed from a source outside the probate system or by individuals in their own capacity. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,
/s/
Evan