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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing
March 4, 2014

House Bill 5390, An Act Concerning State Marshals

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in opposition to **House Bill 5390, *An Act Concerning State Marshals***. This bill would permit state marshals "exercising authority granted under any provisions of the general statutes" to enter Judicial Branch courthouses without submitting to Judicial Branch security procedures.

Under C.G.S. § 6-32f, the Judicial Branch is responsible for courthouse security. In order to fulfill this mandate, the Judicial Branch has instituted a comprehensive security plan that is designed to ensure the safety and security of every person who enters our facilities. As members of the Committee may be aware, each person entering a courthouse through a public entrance - whether it is a member of the public, a police officer, a state marshal, a Judicial Branch employee, or a Judge - is subject to the same security measures and must pass through a metal detector. There are no exceptions. This legislation would undermine the Judicial Branch's statutory authority to establish policies and procedures that maximize safety and security in its facilities by carving out an exception for one class of individuals. We cannot support legislation that would create such an exception.

We therefore respectfully request that the Committee take no action on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.