



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

231 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(860) 757-2270 Fax (860) 757-2215

Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Human Services Committee Public Hearing
March 6, 2014

Senate Bill 328, An Act Concerning Capias Mittimus Orders

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in support of Senate Bill 328, *An Act Concerning Capias Mittimus Orders*. This bill would permit judicial marshals to serve a copy of a civil capias mittimus, instead of the original.

As members of the Committee may be aware, judicial marshals are authorized to serve capias mittimuses in narrow circumstances -- only if the person is in the custody of the judicial marshal or in a courthouse where the marshal provides courthouse security. This bill merely allows the marshal to serve a copy of the mittimus upon the individual, just as state marshals or Department of Social Services (DSS) special policemen can currently do.

The ability to use a copy can save time and increase efficiency. For example, if a judicial marshal locates an individual with an outstanding capias mittimus, he or she must wait until the original capias, which is often stored in a different location, has been located and brought to the courthouse before the person can be arrested. In this scenario, it is conceivable that the individual will leave the courthouse without being served because the original capias order hasn't come over quickly enough. If passed, this bill would likely result in more individuals being served and brought before a family support magistrate, who can then take the necessary action on the individual.

We therefore respectfully request that the Committee act favorably upon this proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.