

## Haggerty, Katie

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**From:** mx5madness@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 09, 2015 2:38 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Committee Bill 5505

Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Scott Chamberlain. I have been a practicing attorney for thirty years, whose practice has been focused on family law. I have also served as a Guardian Ad Litem, both in Superior Court, as well as in the Juvenile Court. I am currently on the list of counsel qualified for appointment as a guardian.

Having read Committee 5505, I cannot imagine a worse, or more ill advised piece of legislation. Were it to be enacted, it would strip judicial power, tie the family court system in knots, give disgruntled litigants free reign, limit the ability of judges to protect children from abusive parents, and strip the protection from lawsuits that judicially appointed guardians have long held.

In the course of my practice, I have never once met any of my colleagues who do this work to be motivated by any other than one principle- the best interest of the child or children entrusted to their representation. Guardians are generally paid little by the state, and the retainers ordered by most courts tend to be very modest. Most of the time it is a challenge to get paid. This is not by way of complaint, but merely a reflection on the fact that most of us do this out of a belief in the importance of what we do, rather than for financial gain.

It is interesting to note that virtually all the individuals behind Committee 5505 are themselves unhappy litigants. This means that, for whatever reason, they were unable to act, in concert with the other parent , in their children's best interests. Remember, it takes two parents to agree; it takes but one to force litigation. Generally we become involved only when all other avenues of reconciliation have failed.

When custody cases enter the courtroom, for trial or hearing, the guardian or child's attorney is the lone voice of the child. Indeed, it may be the only voice in the litigation without some vested interest.

Please don't silence the voice of Connecticut's children.

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