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I have been a practicing attorney for 46 years and have always had an active family law practice. For several years I have been a member of the family law committee of the New Haven County Bar Association. I have followed the enactment of Public Act 14-3 and the proposed Committee Bill No. 5505 with great interest and concern. I largely applaud the legislative effort and concern of the 2014 bill and understand the position of people concerned about the role of G.A.L.s, AMC and mental health providers in family matters. I do, however, feel that the proposed legislation, Committee Bill No. 5505 would be tremendously detrimental to the needs of children and their families.

I have read much of the testimony submitted at the March 6, 2015 hearing and would wholly endorse the written testimony of Attorney Elaine S. Amendola. The proposed legislation would be, as stat ed by Attorney Amendola and the other professionals who oppose the bill, a major step backwards. The Court relies heavily on the expertise of family services counselors and investigators, G.A.L.s, AMCs and mental health providers. The intensity involved in these cases is incredible. To suggest that these professionals should be subject to suit by disgruntled litigants is a grave injustice.