



**Testimony of Evan Preston, State Director  
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group (ConnPIRG)**

**To the Judiciary Committee in opposition to H.B. 6924 An Act Increasing the Amount of  
Damages That May Be Claimed IN a Small Claims Action**

Chairman Coleman, Chairman Tong, Ranking Member Kissel and Ranking Member Rebimbas and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to H.B. 6924 An Act Increasing the Amount of Damages That May Be Claimed in a Small Claims Action.

Small claims court is an important part of the justice system in Connecticut, intended to provide access to justice to all citizens in an expedited and efficient manner. This expedited process is justified by the relatively small size of the claims in question.

In practice, the vast majority of plaintiffs in Connecticut's small claims court are debt collectors or debt buyers suing to collect defaulted consumer debt. They use and abuse the state's expedited small claims court system to obtain default judgments against consumers for amounts up to \$5,000, often without basic documentation of the amount of the debt or that they own the debt in question. The consequences of these abuses are heightened by the fact that small claims judgments are final and may not be appealed in Connecticut.

ConnPIRG, in collaboration with other consumer organizations and consumer attorneys, has supported and will continue to support legislation that would limit the abusive practices of debt buyers in our both small claims and superior courts.

Access to our court system is important, but raising the maximum amount of money damages from \$5,000 to \$10,000 would do little to increase access while doing much to put more consumers at higher risk from the abusive practices of debt collectors and debt buyers. I urge the committee to take no further action on HB 6924.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Evan Preston  
2074 Park Street, Suite 210  
Hartford, CT 06106  
[evan@connpirg.org](mailto:evan@connpirg.org)