



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Committee on Children Public Hearing  
February 17, 2015**

**Senate Bill 842, An Act Concerning Foster Children  
And The Designation of Surrogate Parents**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in support of **Senate Bill 842, *An Act Concerning Foster Children and the Designation of Surrogate Parents***. This bill increases the opportunity for surrogate parents to be appointed, including the possible appointment of an educational surrogate for children in a facility operated by the Judicial Branch's Court Support Services Division (CSSD).

As members of the Committee may be aware, educational surrogates provide vital assistance for children to ensure that their educational needs are met. This bill expands the pool of children eligible for a surrogate parent, provided notification is made to the parent or guardian and that this individual either agrees to the appointment, or fails to object to the appointment. The Judicial Branch supports this common-sense proposal to ensure that children involved in the juvenile justice system receive all of the educational support and assistance to which they are entitled.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this bill.