



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE
PROBATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

PAUL J. KNIERIM
Probate Court Administrator

THOMAS E. GAFFEY
Chief Counsel

HELEN B. BENNET
Attorney

186 NEWINGTON ROAD
WEST HARTFORD, CT 06110

TEL (860) 231-2442
FAX (860) 231-1055

TO: Senate Co-Chair Danté Bartolomeo
House Co-Chair Diana Urban
Senate Ranking Member Henri Martin
House Ranking Member Noreen Kokoruda
Honorable Members of the Children's Committee

FROM: Paul J. Knierim
Probate Court Administrator

RE: S.B. 1007 An Act Concerning Permanency Placements

DATE: March 3, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1007 An Act Concerning Permanency Placements. This office supports section 3 of the bill, which addresses agreements for contact between an adoptive child and his or her birth parents after the adoption is finalized. Under the current statute, post-adoption agreements address contact with biological parents. The bill would expand the scope of agreements to include biological siblings.

We suggest a change to the bill, as well as the existing statute, that would expand eligibility to a greater number of children who are in the adoption process. As drafted, the bill permits post-adoption agreements only if the child is in the custody of the Department of Children and Families before the adoption is finalized. While the statute permits common law post-adoption agreements, there is no statutory provision for agreements for children who are placed for adoption by private agencies. Deleting references to DCF custody in subsections (h) and (o) of C.G.S. section 17a-715 (lines 264-65 and 326-27 of the bill) would permit use of post-adoption agreements in both DCF and private agency placements.

We appreciate the committee's consideration and would be pleased to assist in drafting revisions to the proposal.