



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Labor and Public Employees Committee
Public Hearing
March 5, 2015

Senate Bill 1035, An Act Concerning Bullying in the Workplace

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch on Senate Bill 1035, *An Act Concerning Bullying in the Workplace*. While the Judicial Branch supports the objectives of the bill, we have some concerns.

The bill would require the Commissioner of Administrative Services, in consultation with various Executive Branch officials, to develop policies and procedures for reporting, evaluating and investigating complaints of abusive conduct in the workplace. Since lines 13-14 of the bill define state employees as including Judicial Branch employees, it appears that the Executive Branch may be investigating complaints filed by Judicial Branch employees against other Judicial Branch employees.

While it is important to address workplace hostility among employees, the Human Resource Management Unit within the Judicial Branch's Administrative Services Division should handle investigations of such conduct between and among Judicial Branch employees. We would therefore respectfully request that subsection 1(d) be amended to reflect the Judicial Branch's role in investigating and reporting abusive conduct in its workplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.