



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment**  
**Human Service Committee Public Hearing**  
**March 17, 2015**

**House Bill 6973, An Act Adopting The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act of 2008**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in support of House Bill 6973, *An Act Adopting the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act of 2008*. This bill is principally designed to promote efficient child support services in interstate matters, and improved services in international child support cases. It is unanimously supported by the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Office of the Attorney General, and the Judicial Branch.

As members of the Committee may be aware, this bill responds to federal legislation signed by the President in 2014 which required states to adopt the 2008 Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) verbatim. Failure to do so would have significant consequences, as it would jeopardize the 66% federal reimbursement that Connecticut receives for all child support expenditures.

In addition, the bill also contains sections specific to Connecticut. For example, it re-instates language currently in statute (but removed by the model act) that outlines the Judicial Branch's Support Enforcement Services (SES) authority in interstate cases and provides that SES may perform clerical and administrative duties on behalf of the Family Support Magistrate Division. Similarly, the bill re-instates due process protections for Connecticut residents when direct income withholdings are issued from other states.

The Judicial Branch wishes to thank representatives of DSS for their leadership on this bill, and for all of its efforts in bringing it before the Committee today. We urge approval of this significant and necessary legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this bill.