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Testimony of Stephen N. Ment
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 11, 2015

House Bill 6929, An Act Establishing A Pilot Program In The City Of Bridgeport To Allow For The Service Of A Capias Mittimus Order By An Off-Duty City Police Officer

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch concerning **House Bill 6929**, ***An Act Establishing A Pilot Program In the City of Bridgeport to Allow for the Service of a Capias Mittimus Order by an Off-Duty City Police Officer.*** As the title suggests, the bill would establish a pilot program in Bridgeport that would allow off-duty police officers to serve capias mittimus in child support matters.

Although this proposal may be well-meaning – a backlog of unserved capias' does exist – we would respectfully submit that other proposals currently before the legislature stand a higher likelihood of achieving a more permanent resolution to this issue. For example, Senate Bill 1030, which is also before you today, would increase the number of authorized special police officers within the Department of Social Services' Bureau of Child Support Enforcement who are charged with executing these capias' from six to eight. The same bill would authorize the Judicial Branch's Judicial Marshals to serve a copy of a capias mittimus (as the DSS officers and the state marshals are currently authorized to do) to any person in their custody or in a courthouse. We believe these options should be pursued first.

This bill would add a completely new group of authorized individuals to serve capias mittimus without addressing any of the logistical issues it would present, or addressing issues pertaining to an officer becoming injured while serving these orders. For these reasons, we would respectfully request that the Committee take no action on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony concerning this bill.