



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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

**Proposed Bill No. 650, An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders**

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding **Proposed Bill 650, An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders**.

The Judicial Branch representatives had the opportunity to participate as members of the Task Force to Study Service of Restraining Orders, which issued its report this past January. Many of the provisions contained in the proposed bill were discussed at task force meetings and most were recommendations of the Task Force.

The Judicial Branch takes no position on the larger policy question of whether sworn police officers should serve temporary restraining orders and whether respondents in possession of firearms and ammunition should be required to transfer, deliver or surrender the firearms and ammunition at the time that the restraining order is issued but before the hearing has been held. The Branch, however, would like to comment on item (2), which would “allow a court to extend such order if the applicant is present for the subsequent hearing fourteen days after issuance but the order has not yet been served.” This language contemplates that the hearings are 14 days after issuance; however, Section 46b-15 of the General Statutes requires the court to order that a hearing on the application be held *not later than fourteen days* from the date of the order. So, the hearings need to be scheduled *within* 14 days, which means that it is not always exactly 14 days after the date of the order.

We stand ready to work with the proponents, as they fully draft the proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on this bill.