To: State of Connecticut, General Assembly, Judiciary Committee
From: Attorney Lisa J. Cappalli
Re: Written Testimony Concerning:
Senate Bill 1029, AAC A Non-Adversarial Dissolution of Marriage – Support
House Bill 5505, AAC Family Court Procedures - Oppose
Date: March 11, 2015
From: Lisa J. Cappalli, Esq.

I have practiced law in CT since 1984 and have focused my practice on family law since the late 1980s/early 1990s. For about the past decade, except for occasional GAL/AMC work, I have essentially limited my family law practice to non-adversarial divorce/family work. Due to the changes in legislation impacting GALs/AMCs last year as well as the unprecedented professional and personal risks resulting from GAL/AMC practice, I no longer accept such appointments and do not intend to do so in the future.

Senate Bill 1029 – I support and agree with the testimony submitted by Louise R. Zito, as President of The Connecticut Council for Non-Adversarial Divorce, an organization of which I have been a proud member for many years. My support and agreement is based upon my experience working with hundreds of divorcing clients as mediator, consulting attorney or collaborative attorney.

House Bill 5505 - I strongly oppose House Bill 5505 based upon the concerns eloquently expressed in the written testimony in opposition which has already been provided by numerous other witnesses. What I respectfully ask you to consider is that because I do not provide GAL/AMC services and practice "outside of court" through divorce mediation and collaborative divorce, I will not benefit personally or professionally if the Bill is defeated. In fact, as the court system becomes less effective at resolving parenting and custody disputes, which I believe will occur if House Bill 5505 becomes law, the demand for and value of my non-adversarial legal services will increase. My opposition therefore comes at its most basic level from my caring and concern for the children of Connecticut whose parents are unwilling or unable to make these children a priority and choose to turn to the court system to wage war.