



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill Number 1030 Judiciary Committee March 11, 2015

Chairmen Tong and Coleman, Ranking Members Rebimbas and Kissel and Members of the Judiciary Committee, the House Republican Caucus would like to thank the Committee for raising **Senate Bill Number 1030: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study Methods for Improving the Collection of Past Due Child Support.**

This bill is an important House Republican proposal to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study Methods for Improving the Collection of Past Due Child Support. In 2013, the Connecticut General Assembly passed Substitute House Bill No. 6678, Special Act No. 13-14, to study improving child support collection. As a result, on February 06, 2014, the task force released a number of recommendations contained in the report titled 'Report of the Task Force to Study Methods for Improving the Collection of Past Due Child Support.'

According to the Connecticut child support program, the amount of uncollected child support in Connecticut is estimated to be 1.5 billion dollars. This growing debt adversely impacts the daily lives of Connecticut children and families. Among the many factors that contribute to uncollected child support debt, the Task Force identified lack of resources and current technological capabilities as the main reasons why there is such a problem. According to the report, in Fiscal Year 2012, Connecticut collected only 57.8% of all current child support due to families with minor children and ranked 38th in the nation for collecting current child support. The Connecticut child support caseload constantly increases; however, the child support program relies on a computer system and technology dating back to 1987. Additionally, the Task Force found that in 2013 only 18 out of over 200 State Marshals executed/served Capias Mittimus Orders.

Senate Bill 1030 would implement a number of the Task Force's recommendations including but not limited to the implementation of policies and procedures to increase Marshal participation and the establishment of a task force to study technological and other initiatives that could maximize the collection of child support.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to pass Senate Bill Number 1030 to implement the recommendations of the task force to study methods for improving the collection of past due child support. Please allow the full General Assembly the opportunity to debate this issue and to pass legislation to improve transparency in our state government.