



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment**  
**Committee on Children Public Hearing**  
**February 17, 2015**

**House Bill 6723, An Act Concerning Grounds**  
**For Termination of Parental Rights**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in support of **House Bill 6732, *An Act Concerning Grounds for Termination of Parental Rights***. This largely technical bill requires the Superior Court to consider instances of abuse, in addition to considering whether the child was neglected or uncared for, when deciding whether to terminate parental rights.

Formerly, the definition of "neglect" was broad enough to include "abuse", so the inclusion of neglect in these sections was sufficient. A 2011 revision, however, removed abuse from the definition of neglect, and created the possibility that the court could simply find one abused. When this change was made, however, concomitant changes were not made to these sections pertaining to the termination of parental rights. This bill merely addresses that issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of this bill.