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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Education Committee Public Hearing
March 2, 2016**

S.B. 319, An Act Concerning Notification to Schools of Protective or Restraining Orders Affecting Students

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding *S.B. 319, An Act Concerning Notification to Schools of Protective or Restraining Orders Affecting Students*.

The Judicial Branch has numerous concerns with the bill as drafted. Under current law (Sections 45b-15, 46b-38c (d) and 54-1k) , the clerk of the court notifies public and private schools when there is a restraining or protective order in place, **and the victim/student requests that the notification be sent**. The bill before you will require clerks to notify the local or regional board of education and the superintendent of schools whenever there is a protective or restraining order in place and the victim is a student. This would mean that victims who are public school attendees would be treated differently than victims who are private school attendees, making public school notification mandatory, while notice to private schools would remain at the option of the applicant. We believe that it is best to leave the decision as to whether schools should be notified to the victim.

Additionally, what if the applicant chose not to pursue the order, or did not even have it served on the respondent? The school still would have possession of the order, and may base decisions on it, while the applicant had no intention of pursuing the

matter further in court. In such an instance, the respondent may never even have known about the order and yet the school district would be expected to devise a plan by the next day.

Also, please note that, should this legislation go forward as proposed, boards of education are elected bodies whose members can change with each election. If the contact persons and/or contact information can change with every election, the “contact list” would be nearly impossible to maintain. Additionally, ensuring that notice is sent to all appropriate persons in situations in which it may not even be known whether one or more parties are students, would be a burdensome and resource intensive task for the clerks’ offices.

If the Committee has identified a problem with the current process, we would be more than willing to sit down to determine where there may be gaps, and what legislative or policy remedies would address those gaps.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this legislation.