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TO: Senate Co-Chair Eric Coleman
House Co-Chair William Tong
Senate Ranking Member John Kissel
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Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Paul J. Knierim
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RE: RB 214, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the
Auditors of Public Accounts with Respect to Probate Courts

DATE: March 3, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Raised Bill 214, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts with Respect to Probate Courts. We support the bill, which extends whistleblower protection to Probate Court employees.

Under C.G.S. section 4-61dd, a state employee or employee of a quasi-public agency or large state contractor who makes a whistleblower complaint enjoys statutory protections against retaliation by his or her employer. Probate Court employees do not fall into any of the categories of employee specified in the statute. The bill would close that gap by adding explicit reference to Probate Court employees to the statute.

The State Auditors brought the gap in the current statute to our attention during a periodic audit. We are in agreement with their proposed language and respectfully request that the committee act favorably on this part of the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.