



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Education Committee Public Hearing
March 7, 2016**

**H.B. 5550, An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions
to the Education Statutes**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch concerning **H.B. 5550, *An Act Concerning Various Revisions and Additions to the Education Statutes***. We want to thank the Committee for accommodating our language request in Section 10 of the bill, which would make the Judicial Branch a formal member of the Interagency Council for Ending the Achievement Gap.

The Judicial Branch has been and is currently an active participant in the development of the Achievement Gap Task Force Master Plan. We attend meetings of the Council and have done extensive work in collaboration with state agencies to establish and carry out steps towards closing the achievement gap. We are not, however, a formal member of the Council. We have spoken with Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and a representative from the State Department of Education about the possibility of the Judicial Branch becoming a formal member of the Council and they both had no objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We appreciate your support.