



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Government Administration and Elections Committee Public Hearing
March 14, 2016**

**H.B. 5613, An Act Prohibiting Disclosure of Date of Birth
Information on Voter Records**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch regarding **H.B. 5613, *An Act Prohibiting Disclosure of Date of Birth Information on Voter Records***.

The bill would prohibit the disclosure to any member of the public or to any public agency the elector's date of birth. Should this bill pass, it will have a significant impact on our ability to summon jurors.

For the purpose of creating the jury master file, Section 51-222a (a) of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes the Jury Administrator to request various lists, including the Centralized Voter Registration System list from the Secretary of the State's Office, the list of licensed motor vehicle operators from the Department of Motor Vehicles, the list of residents who filed an income tax return from the Department of Revenue Services and a list of people who received unemployment compensation from the Department of Labor.

The statute requires the Jury Administrator to combine the names from these lists and to delete duplicate names, where possible. This requires the development of a

matching process using similar data points, aimed at giving persons only a single chance of being selected for jury service. The only data point that Jury Administration currently has for electors is dates of birth. Without a data point, it will be difficult to eliminate duplicate names and it will be difficult to establish and maintain a list of persons to be permanently disqualified from the summoning process.

Jury Administration believes that this bill will disproportionately affect elderly persons, as it is not uncommon for the voter record to be the sole source-list from which a person is summoned. This bill will also affect those individuals who have been permanently excused for medical conditions that render them unable to perform jury service.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.