

Written testimony for Public Hearing  
Judiciary Committee  
March 18, 2016

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**Kappa Alpha Theta Alumnae Chapter of Fairfield County**  
38 Old Rock Lane, Norwalk, CT 06850

Testimony IN SUPPORT OF raised Bill no. 347  
Act establishing a program for Court Appointed Special Advocates  
in certain juvenile court matters

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Thank you Senator Coleman and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee for this opportunity to submit my support and the support of **over 300 Kappa Alpha Theta sorority members and friends** throughout Connecticut in support of raised Bill no. 347.

Kappa Alpha Theta has partnered with CASA nationally for over 25 years, and we are keenly aware of the incredible impact that a CASA volunteer can make in a child's life. This has been proven in other states and we are anxious to help bring the program benefits to the most vulnerable population of children in Connecticut. To demonstrate our support for this bill, we reached out to our local members, Theta alumnae throughout Connecticut, and Theta undergraduates studying in Connecticut and across the country, all of whom call Connecticut home. The response to our [Change.org petition](#) in support of the CASA Statute was overwhelming - we gathered over 300 signatures and many respondents added thoughtful comments on the importance of CASA in the lives of at-risk children. The signatures and comments from the petition are listed on the following pages.

We are grateful for the efforts of Senator Coleman and others for supporting this very important effort. It is our hope that this bill passes and goes into effect without delay, to help at-risk children in Connecticut. Thank you for your consideration.