



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Human Services Committee Public Hearing
March 11, 2021**

H.B. 6562, An Act Concerning Child Support Enforcement

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding **H.B. 6562, *An Act Concerning Child Support Enforcement***.

The Judicial Branch has concerns with Section 2 of the bill that would create a task force to study technological and other initiatives that could be implemented to maximize the collection of child support due and owing to state residents. The Judicial Branch supports technological advances and continuously looks for ways to maximize the collection of child support; however, the creation of the task force will require significant time and investment by the Judicial Branch and its Support Enforcement Services unit.

The Judicial Branch offers the following information, which we hope may be helpful:

1. Support Enforcement Services (SES) is part of the Judicial Branch. SES works closely with state and federal agencies to operate the Connecticut Title IV-D Child Support Enforcement Program. SES's primary job is to help parents modify and enforce their child support orders.

2. The Department of Social Services and its Office of Child Support Services (OCSS) is the lead IV-D partner in the Connecticut Child Support Program, which has specific federal requirements for funding and reimbursement, technology, program requirements, and performance measures.
3. The Judicial Branch and its SES unit were previously involved in a 2016 legislative task force resulting in the adoption of Public Act 17-98, *An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force to Study Methods for Improving the Collection of Past Due Child Support*. Many of the technological recommendations from the 2016 legislative task force are still being implemented.
4. The Judicial Branch and its SES unit are actively working with the Department of Social Services and its Office of Child Support Services on the replacement of the federally certified Connecticut Child Support Enforcement System (CCSES), which has been in effect since 1987.
5. The Judicial Branch and its SES unit are also actively working with the Department of Social Services and its current administration of the statewide Fatherhood Initiative. The policy and evolution of child support enforcement is intertwined with the long term strategies to promote healthy father relationships.

The Judicial Branch's contribution and involvement will be significantly more than the single membership representation of the Chief Court Administrator or designee. Should the Committee decide to move forward with the task force, the Judicial Branch respectfully requests that the Judicial Branch be authorized to appoint more than one member to the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.