



## Testimony regarding H.B. 6562 AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

Chairpersons Moore and Abercrombie, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the Human Services Committee:

The State Marshal Association of CT is an affiliated local of AFSCME Council 4 and represents State Marshals in all 8 counties of CT. **The State Marshal Association of CT has comments and concerns regarding H.B. 6562—and suggests changes & additions to the bill.**

SECTION 1- We are opposed to increasing statutory number of DSS officers. The service of civil process in our state is the sole function of the State Marshal system. The Attorney General has stated in legal opinions that '*capias is a form of civil process*'. **State Marshals who serve capias are thoroughly trained** at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, CT under the direction of the Police Officer Standard and Training Council (POSTC).

State Marshals serving capias complements DSS efforts in child support enforcement. Even though State Marshals are not employed directly by the State, we are supervised and regulated by the State Marshal Commission. Furthermore, **Marshals receive compensation only for successful capias arrests, thereby minimizing cost and expense to the State.** Marshals work under a system created by the State to allow them to have a sufficient stream of revenue to function effectively. We pay an annual license fee to the state, we are bonded, insured, we provide our own health insurance and retirement income.

Increasing the number of DSS officers to perform capias duties may inhibit the work of Marshals and make it more difficult for the marshal system to function. We oppose an increase of DSS capias officers before a study and /or task force is performed.

SECTION 2- We support the establishing of a task force, with changes. If the task force envisions studying technologies to aid in the execution of capias, then because capias is civil process, and that is clearly the function of State Marshals, Section 2 of the bill should be amended:

- To include a member of the State Marshal Commission, or designee.
- To include a member of the State Marshal Advisory Board, or designee.
- Further, to add a provision for '*studying such technological initiatives or needed policy or legislative changes to enable and empower State Marshals with tools, resources, and access to information, to increase the effective service of capias*'.

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<sup>1</sup> [Formal Opinion 2007-002, Attorney General State of Connecticut](#)

Clearly, there is a need to address & improve the service of *capias* for parents who have failed to appear for child support proceedings. *State Marshals are already authorized and trained by the State to serve capias. Use them and empower them to serve more capias.*

The General Assembly should consider how it can utilize the already established State Marshal system. Getting the State Marshal Commission, State Marshals, DSS, and the Judicial Branch together in a task force to collaborate to improve the service of *capias* and to imagine new solutions and technologies to empower State Marshals, would benefit our child support system greatly.

Such changes to H.B. 6562 would aid in accomplishing the state's child support collection goals— without the salaries, benefits, retirement, hiring process, lengthy time and training costs that adding DSS police officers would entail.

**We ask the committee to revise the H.B. 6562 to include State Marshals in our state's child support collection solutions.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Connecticut State Marshal  
State Marshal's Association of Connecticut