



March 15, 2012

Good morning, Chairman Winfield, Chairman Stafstrom and Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Colleen Birney. I am speaking on behalf of Council 4 AFSCME Local 749, which represents 1,600 Judicial Branch employees. I have been a court recording monitor in the Fairfield/Bridgeport district for 13 years. **We ask your assistance in the writing of House Bill 6505, An Act Concerning Court Operations.**

Our union represents the almost 200 court recording monitors throughout the state. These monitors have the vital job of keeping the record and producing accurate transcripts of what is said in Court in addition to performing other duties related to protecting and making a record. Our union has been in negotiations with the Judicial Branch management regarding the way court recording monitors work and how transcripts are produced. We have been working tirelessly with the branch trying to gain ground lost due to Covid, and we are close to an agreement. **Our union is concerned that if there is no final agreement before this bill passes, the monitors will be privatized out of our jobs. If negotiations break down with the branch, we will ask that sections 42 and 43 be removed.** We respectfully ask that we can keep you apprised of our progress with negotiations with Branch management.

Thank you for your consideration.