



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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**Testimony of the Judicial Branch  
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing  
March 22, 2021**

**S.B. 972, An Act Concerning the Cost of Telecommunications  
Services in Correctional Facilities**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch concerning *S.B. 972, An Act Concerning the Cost of Telecommunications Services in Correctional Facilities*.

The Judicial Branch fully endorses the effort to eliminate the cost of inmate phone calls to Department of Correction (DOC) inmates. However, while the Governor's Budget recommends an increase of \$1 million in Personal Services (PS) to replace the revenue loss to the Judicial Branch from the elimination of the Inmate Phone Revenue Fund, this increase in PS funding does not come close to replacing the funding needed to underwrite the cost of the 28 probation officers currently funded through the Inmate Phone Revenue Fund. An additional \$2.2 million in General Funds is necessary to fund these probation officers who are charged with and have been tremendously successful in discharging the very important responsibility of reducing prison populations by reducing the number of individuals charged with technical violations of probation which frequently led to the incarceration of individuals so charged. The impact of losing these staff members would not only impact the Judicial Branch, but the criminal justice community as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.