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Dear Connecticut General Assembly,

I, Mark E. Bradley, an attorney who practices in the area of probate law for the past four (4) years without reservation support 13 S.B. No. 209 and the Probate System Employees. I can firmly attest that probate matters can be some of the more complex, serious, and highly emotional matters under the law. Whether it's trying to navigate through the estate of a deceased family member or dealing with the guardianship of an incapacitated person, probate matter requires many forms and uses terminology that are antiquated that it can be confusing and overwhelming for many families to understand. And it doesn't get any easier hiring an attorney because the legal cost of estate planning costs thousands of dollars that many families simply cannot afford. With that being said, the work of probate employees is of utmost importance, helping families navigate this complex system during some of their hardest times is exemplary of their character and experience.

This current system of having these employees fired solely because of their political party is absurd. The last thing on a probate staffer should be "is election season coming up?" or "will my job be secured if my party or candidate does not win." Their job status should not be part of any political system or tied to any election or political contribution. Doing so, is a prime example of political corruption and nepotism. Probate matters are a highly complex and technical field, and their experience and character should be the only factors considering their worth in the field.

The right to participate in collective bargaining is long overdue. Giving these probate employees the peace and protection to do their jobs should not be a debate. Coercion, political restraint, and nepotism should never be allowed in any workplace and the current law as it stands supports these unfair and unjust dealings. I ask that 13 S.B. 209 receives bipartisan support and that we correct this broken system and protect these noble and important workers.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Bradley, Esq.