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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

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Testimony of the Judicial Branch
Judiciary Committee Public Hearing
March 25, 2019

**H.B. 6714, 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 H.B. 6714, *An Act Concerning the Cost of Telecommunications Services in Correctional Facilities*.

While the Judicial Branch takes no position on the policy change contemplated in this proposal, the bill as proposed would seriously impact the funding of several Adult Probation positions. In FY 2018, the Judicial Branch received over \$5.5 million from the revenue generated from this fund. That \$5.5 million funds staffing and other expenses related to the Probation Transition Program (supervision of persons sentenced to a term of incarceration followed by probation supervision) and the Technical Violations Unit (enhanced supervision of certain persons in violation of probation).

We do not have the necessary funding in our budget to make up for this loss of revenue. These probation officers have played a large role in moving individuals out of the Department of Correction and back into the community. 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.