



*Written Testimony before the Judiciary Committee
Roderick L. Bremby, Commissioner
March 13, 2017*

H.B. No. 7195 (RAISED) AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE TO STUDY METHODS FOR IMPROVING THE COLLECTION OF PAST DUE CHILD SUPPORT

The Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) is the state agency responsible for administering the Child Support/IV-D program in Connecticut. In cooperative agreement with the Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's office, the Connecticut Office of Child Support Services works to improve the well-being of children and their families by providing a path to self-sufficiency. Such assistance is provided through the following services:

- Establishing legal paternity of children
- Locating non-custodial parents
- Establishing monetary and medical support orders obligating parents to support their children
- Assisting parents in addressing any needs or issues they may have via referrals to other agencies and / or community resources
- Collecting and distributing child support payments
- Modifying child support orders if appropriate

The Department would like to express its gratitude toward the Judiciary Committee for hearing a bill related to improving the collection of child support. The Legislature and the Child Support Task Force has been an integral partner in supporting the State's ability to provide quality child support services with the recognition that children require the financial, medical, and emotional support of both parents, regardless of their living situation or relationship.

In addition, the Child Support Task Force has also expressed specific interest in new technological initiatives that could assist with maximizing the collection of child support. Specific to this topic, the Department has recently initiated a feasibility study to assist in developing a blueprint for the enhancement or replacement of our 30 year old child support system. The Department is excited for the opportunity to participate in this study and determine next steps toward modernization.

The Department is happy to share any pertinent information and engage interested legislators and Task Force members in discussions regarding forward movement with this study.