



Legislative Testimony
765 Asylum Avenue, First Floor
Hartford, CT 06105
860-523-9146
www.acluct.org

Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 854, An Act Concerning a List of the 100 Most Delinquent Child Support Obligor

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Ranking Members Berthel and Case, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Kelly McConney Moore, and I am the interim senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 854, An Act Concerning a List of the 100 Most Delinquent Child Support Obligor.

We strongly encourage the committee to support this bill. Put simply registries of any sort do not work. Registries, first and foremost, serve as an extrajudicial form of punishment, created for the purpose of shaming and ostracizing. An employer or creditor can consult a background check or credit check and uncover information about child support delinquencies in the cases where that information is truly necessary. The casual ease of consulting a public registry, such as this delinquency list, on the other hand, brings unnecessary public exposure and retribution against people whose circumstances are unknown and may not be fully encompassed by delinquent obligations. There is also a danger that poorly maintained or inaccurate databases would cause confusion, potentially implicating innocent people or, conversely, creating a false sense of security. This undermines the ostensible goal of this list. Rather than stigmatizing people who may be unable to pay child support, Connecticut should focus on programs and policies that actually provide resources and support to the young people of this state. For this reason, the child support obligor delinquency list is ineffective and harmful. This Committee should support this effort to abolish it, as does the ACLU-CT.