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## TESTIMONY

My name is Brian A. Doyle. I am a principal in the law firm of Ferguson, Doyle & Chester located in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. This firm's clients include the American Federation of Teachers CT, the American Association of University Professors, University of Connecticut Chapter, the Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association, as well as numerous municipal and private sector labor unions.

I am here today to express my concerns regarding Public Act #10-1. This Act established a task force to study converting legislative materials from paper to electronic form. While this task force has not offered its final recommendation, there has already been an elimination of public hearing transcripts. The elimination of transcripts of public hearing I believe is penny-wise, pound foolish and potentially dangerous. Practitioners such as myself, as well as State and Federal Courts, rely on the transcripts of public hearings when the statute itself is unclear. These transcripts are often invaluable in determining the legislative intent of a particular law.

The idea that written public hearing transcripts will no longer be available and no longer archived at the State Library is, quite frankly, frightening. These transcripts are often the best evidence to determine legislative intent. Public hearing transcripts contain discussions of the intent of the statute and are not only necessary but invaluable. Without committee transcripts, a practitioner or a court will only have the statutory language as a tool to determine the intent of a statute.

For close to one hundred years, the State Library has been the repository for hearing transcripts. Anyone can use the hearing transcripts as a research tool. If these hearing transcripts no longer exist, not only will a research tool be gone, but so will part of Connecticut's history.

I understand that the task force is charged with finding options to save money. While that is a laudable goal, it is foolish to eliminate recordings and transcripts and essentially eviscerate the legislative history of a statute.