



**ACAAG AFT-CT Local 6574
Testimony in Support of Senate
Bill 1157: An Act Concerning
Revision to the Freedom of
Information Act Concerning
Employees of Public Agencies**

We write in support of Senate Bill 1157. Connecticut General Statutes § 1-217 already protects the residential addresses for certain employees within the State, many of whom represent the State, however, employees working at the Office of the Attorney General are not included.

Employees of the Office of the Attorney General, including staff, have daily interactions with the general public. Not all those interactions are positive, which makes it imperative that the residential addresses of individuals within the Office of the Attorney General are protected so that the work of the Office is done without fear.

Some matters handled by the Office result in contentious litigation, which have left employees with grievance complaints, harassment, stalking, death threats, or the need to familiarize themselves with workplace violence policies in order to keep everyone safe. No one should be faced with a death threat for doing their job effectively. No one should worry for the safety of their family because of what they do for work. Our work is exciting, inspiring, challenging, and although it shouldn't be, sometimes dangerous because of the reactions it provokes in people.

As an example, an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) in the Child Support unit received a death threat because an obligor ordered to pay child support did not feel that his case was fair. That AAG has children, and ordered them not to open the door to their home for anyone. That AAG worked side by side with a Support Enforcement Officer who also received a death threat, but whose home address was protected from disclosure because he was an employee of the judicial branch. That distinction for people that work together simply does not make sense. The same distinction can be made for AAGs in the Child Protection unit whose client agency workers at the Department of Children and Families have their home address protected from disclosure, but not the AAGs who represent them in court. Similarly, AAGs in the Public Safety unit represent prosecutors, public defenders, and Department of Correction employees, all of whom have their address protected from public disclosure, but not the Assistant Attorney Generals who represent them. Numerous AAGs in the Public Safety unit have received death threats, as have AAGs in our Transportation/Infrastructure unit after a successful appeal. Where an AAG resides has no relevance to the legal representation he or she performs, and our work address, email and phone numbers are listed in publicly filed appearance forms and pleadings.

Passage of this bill would be a small but monumental step to keeping AAGs as safe and protected as possible. No one should feel unsafe enforcing or defending the law. We ask that you join our efforts to protect the residential addresses of the employees within the Office of the Attorney General and support Senate Bill 1157. Thank you.

Speaking on behalf of ACAAG, AFT-CT Local 6574 (President, Joan Andrews and/or Vice President Raul Rodriguez)