Dear Friends:

Legislation is being proposed that could potentially be devastating to the Children’s Law Center as well as the children we represent. The impact of raised bill 1049 on the ability to have access to this needed service by children could be significantly impacted by this bill, so it’s pretty important that we do everything we can to defeat this bill.  Mass numbers are critical to contact legislators.

Here is the link to the proposed bill: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2017/TOB/s/pdf/2017SB-01049-R00-SB.pdf>

To get more information, find the Key Talking Points here: [LINK to file with Key Talking Points]

**There are two important ways you can help BY MONDAY MORNING, April 17th, which is when the hearings begin:**

1. **Call or e-mail the members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee**.  Their names and contact information are available here: http://www.cga.ct.gov/fin
2. **Call or e-mail your own State representatives.**  Click here to find your representatives:  <http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>

If you are e-mailing, you can simply cut and paste the following paragraphs or draft your own message using the talking points attached (**reference Bill No. 1049: AN ACT CONCERNING REGISTRATION FEES FOR COUNSEL AND GUARDIANS AD LITEM FOR MINOR CHILDREN AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN FAMILY RELATIONS MATTERS.)**

Dear Representative,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to Raised Bill No. 1049: An Act Concerning Registration Fees for Counsel and Guardians ad litem for Minor Children and other requirements for certain Family Relations Matters. **This bill is bad for kids.**

More than 35,000 divorce and custody cases are filed annually in the State of Connecticut.  The cases in which GALs are appointed are the worst that the family court sees.  Many of these cases are further exacerbated by complex issues such as: violence, abuse, addiction, mental illness, incarceration and more.

Research shows that children of divorcing parents suffer from depression, sleep disorders, loss of self-esteem, behavioral regression and other emotional, traumatic problems, especially in cases of high conflict. **GALs strive to create safe, stable environments for vulnerable children who are harmed by their parents’ protracted and contentious litigation.**  The goal is to help these children reach emotional, psychological, physical and academic milestones and mitigate these negative outcomes.

This proposed legislation will essentially put an end to the representation of children in family court, leaving Connecticut’s most vulnerable children defenseless.

I urge you to join me in opposing Raised Bill No. 1049: An Act Concerning Registration Fees for Counsel and Guardians ad litem for Minor Children and other requirements for certain Family Relations Matters. **This bill is bad for kids.**

Sincerely,

 Your Name

Thank you for your support! Our future viability depends on your help.