



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

September 26, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Hon. Nicholas P. Scutari
67 Walnut Avenue
Clark, New Jersey 07066

Hon. Joseph A. Lagana
205 Robin Road, Suite 122
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

Re: S4510 (Lagana)/A5761 (Carter) – Clarifies procedures in certain contested child custody cases

Dear Senate President Scutari and Senator Lagana:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association, I convey our support to the amendments made to S4510 (Lagana)/A5761 (Carter). The Association is appreciative of your time to discuss the concerns of our members on the bill, which amends the child custody statute to address a child's expressed preference in matters where there are parent-child contact issues and reunification therapy is being considered. As amended, the bill addresses those concerns.

The amendments clarify the procedures for the court to make determinations in contested custody cases where there is a concern of refusal and resistance to contact between a parent and a child. These are some of the most difficult cases for judges to oversee and therefore it is an area of the law where legislation must be both clear and adaptable to suit the intricacies of families. We appreciate your willingness to amend the bill to incorporate language that addresses these twin concerns.

On behalf of the NJSBA, thank you for your continued leadership.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Chapland

Lisa Chapland, Esq.

cc: Hon. Linda S. Carter (via electronic mail)
Christine A. Amalfe, Esq., NJSBA President (via electronic mail)
Angela Scheck, NJSBA Executive Director (via electronic mail)