

**Testimony for Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Health and Hospitals
On the DMHAS Budget
H.B. 6365, the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget**

**By Maia Talmor, Hamden High School, on behalf of
The Governor's Partnership to Protect Connecticut's Workforce
DBA The Governor's Prevention Partnership
February 20, 2009**

Good afternoon/evening, Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, Senator Harris, Representative Ryan and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Maia Talmor and I am a senior at Hamden High School. I'm here today to ask for your continued support for prevention programs so that our young people can grow and thrive in nurturing families and communities and find themselves ready and prepared to take their place as well educated adults in the Connecticut workforce.

I have seen first hand how these programs benefit the youth of Connecticut and I am committed to helping this cause grow in the future. About a year ago I started participating in compliance checks with the Governor's Prevention Partnership and the CT Liquor Control. It was our job to ensure that the laws enforcing the drinking age were being followed and attend to those individuals who did not comply. These operations have showed me how important it is to have a strong bond between youth and law enforcement because after each offender is caught, teens all over Connecticut are one store safer to being drug and alcohol free.

The Governor's Prevention Partnership is a valuable endowment because it saves Connecticut money; nearly ten dollars is returned for every dollar invested in prevention. The Partnership provides the expertise to help prevention programs grow and enlist businesses to invest in prevention.

In the days ahead, please continue to support their tireless commitment, work, and energy as they tackle the serious issues affecting our children and their futures, from underage drinking and drug abuse to violence prevention and bullying to mastering the skills and schooling needed to succeed. We need The Governor's Prevention Partnership to protect our future workforce.

Thank you.