

**Written Testimony of Joan Walsh, Parent,
in support of funding for Legal Services Programs in Connecticut**

My name is Joan Walsh. I am a parent and citizen of the state of Connecticut and a resident in the City of Hartford. I am here to speak in support of increase funding for Legal Services.

Recently, Greater Hartford Legal Aid assisted me to appropriately and effectively advocate for my son, who was without an appropriate school placement for over 4 months. During this 4 month period, my son was at home, receiving minimal tutoring. He did not receive any of the support services he needed, such as occupational therapy, speech therapy, or social skills training. With Greater Hartford Legal Aid's assistance, my son was able to access an appropriate education program and started this program 3 weeks ago. With the on going assistance of my Attorney from Greater Hartford Legal an appropriate educational plan is being developed, and my son will be compensated with additional support for the delay in services to help him catch up.

I urge you to support funding for legal services so that they can continue to work for low-income families in Connecticut. Without their help, my son might still be out of school.

Thank you.

Joan Walsh, Parent
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