

# CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY REGIONAL ACTION COUNCIL

Public Health Committee  
Room 1 D, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

February 6, 2009

**Honorable Senator Jonathan Harris, Committee Chair**

**Honorable Representative Elizabeth Ritter, Committee Chair**

**Members of the Public Health Committee**

**Re: Raised Bill 6262  
An Act Concerning Regional Action Councils (RACs)**

Dear Mr. Chairman, Madam Chairwoman, Members of the Public Health Committee:

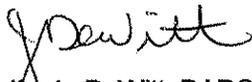
My name is Jennifer DeWitt, and I am the Executive Director of the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council (CNVRAC). Attached you will find letters of support and personal testimonies, requesting that you oppose Raised Bill 6262, which would establish 5 Regional Action Councils for substance abuse prevention & treatment planning.

These letters have been gathered by passionate advocates from the CNVRAC community. The CNVRAC supports substance abuse prevention services for *twelve* towns of CT. If our structure were to change as Raised Bill 6262 proposes, so would our ability to maintain local level relationships, such as the ones you now have proof of in this packet.

I urge you to strongly consider the current structure of the RACs, and to see first hand, the value of services- needs assessment, planning, program development, technical assistance, data collection & priority setting, capacity building... and that you deem these services to be most efficiently delivered in our current format. Fourteen sub-regional action councils, where local-level needs and grassroots efforts can be achieved; versus 5 "super RACs" where relationships will be lost, service delivery will be compromised, substance abuse prevention efforts will be injured.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this very important Bill.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. DeWitt, DARC, CPP-R  
Executive Director, CNVRAC

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent and reliable data collection processes to support effective decision-making.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the role of technology in data management and analysis. It discusses how modern software solutions can streamline data collection, storage, and reporting, thereby improving efficiency and accuracy.

4. The fourth part of the document addresses the challenges associated with data management, such as data quality, security, and integration. It provides strategies to overcome these challenges and ensure the integrity and availability of data.

5. The fifth part of the document discusses the importance of data governance and compliance. It outlines the key principles and practices for ensuring that data is managed in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

6. The sixth part of the document explores the future of data management and analysis. It discusses emerging trends and technologies that are expected to shape the data landscape in the coming years.

7. The seventh part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and recommendations. It emphasizes the need for a holistic approach to data management that integrates all aspects of the organization's operations.

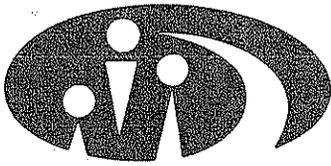
8. The eighth part of the document discusses the importance of data literacy and training. It highlights the need for employees to have the skills and knowledge to effectively use data in their work.

9. The ninth part of the document provides a conclusion and a call to action. It encourages the organization to embrace a data-driven culture and to continuously improve its data management practices.

10. The tenth part of the document provides a list of references and resources for further reading. It includes books, articles, and online resources that provide additional information on data management and analysis.

11. The eleventh part of the document provides a list of appendices and supplementary materials. These materials provide additional details and data to support the main text of the document.

12. The twelfth part of the document provides a list of contact information and a disclaimer. It includes the names and titles of the authors and a statement regarding the accuracy and liability of the information provided.



**FAMILY  
INTERVENTION  
CENTER**

*"Promoting wellness through education, intervention and treatment"*

1875 Thomaston Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06704 (203) 753-2153 Fax (203) 756-6032 e-mail: jfutschik.FIC@sbcglobal.net

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**Members of the Public Health Committee**

**Re: Raised Bill 6262  
An Act Concerning Regional Action Councils (RACs)**

Dear Mr. Chairman, Madam Chairwoman, Members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Joseph Futschik, and I am the President of the Family Intervention Center, a substance abuse and mental health treatment provider for the Waterbury area. I am writing this testimony in **opposition** of Raised Bill 6262 which would establish 5 Regional Action Councils for substance abuse prevention & treatment planning.

We have been working with the Regional Action Council since its inception many years ago and more recently have taken on the responsibility of being the fiduciary. Prevention is vitally important to our citizens in terms of helping people become education and become pro active in making healthy choices which ultimately saves money with treatment. We have witnessed an insurgence in the region coming together to promote healthy behaviors and cooperating to better serve our citizens.

We strongly encourage you to examine all aspects of this funding dilemma in order to best serve our citizens. I thank you for your willingness to consider these ideas.

Yours truly,

Joseph Futschik, LCSW, LADC  
President

JEF/jf

February 2, 2009

**Dear Senator Kane and Representatives Miner and Williams:**

I have been asked to forward the letter below regarding drug and alcohol abuse prevention and affected family, individual, group assistance programs. I am glad to send this request to continue these programs because I have seen and heard how they are helping on a local Woodbury/Bethlehem town level. Just so long as we have drug and alcohol addiction and availability to our young population, we will need the type of programs the CNVRAC has helped us put in place and guide their effectiveness. I know you have a huge deficit crisis to deal with and you **MUST** make decisions where to cut expenses. Please, weigh the value of these programs against others. Good luck to all of you with the chore in front of you.

Over the past years you have most generously asked at the local level, "What can I do for you?" Well, today, CNVRAC and the thirteen other Regional Action Councils (RACs) across the state need your help. I am addressing the legislation from DMHAS that was raised by the Public Health Committee on 1/23/09, **An Act Concerning Regional Action Councils** which would result in the dissolution of 14 grassroots entities to 5 regional offices. This is a poor alternative to grassroots prevention that's been successfully ongoing in Connecticut for about 18 years.

This measure is NOT cost neutral as DMHAS claims. It could, in fact, cost the state 100's of thousands of dollars as the RACs Drug Free Communities funding would be in jeopardy. Presently, 10 of the 14 RACs are Drug Free Communities generally receiving \$100,000 per year for up to ten years; and a number of the RACs also are recipients of SAMHSA Mentoring Grants of \$75,000 per year. The purpose of these mentoring grants is to provide funding to existing DFC grantees (mentors) to support development and/or expansion of new community coalitions (mentees) that are focused on substance abuse prevention.

DMHAS has said that what we do is planning. The RACs do so much more than planning. The partnerships we all have grown through the years are testament to the prevention work that's been accomplished and respected within our communities. Our outreach, our partnerships built up over the past 20 years would be greatly put at risk if we were to lose our grassroots initiatives.

In a phone conversation held with Tom DeLoe, Team Leader for SAMHSA's Drug Free Communities here in Connecticut, he told Mirelle Freedman, RAC Director for the Greater Hartford area that the DFC programs are very impressed with Connecticut's Regional Action Council system. That is why, a small state such as CT, has **10 of its 14 RACs designated DFC grantees.**

On behalf of the 14 RAC Executive Directors of the Connecticut Prevention network, I am asking that you share their plight with your legislative colleagues who are serving on the Public Health Committee, and *not* allow this proposal to move forward.

Regards,

pdh

*Paul D Hinckley*  
First Selectman  
Woodbury, CT 06798  
Tel: 203-263-2141  
Fax: 203-263-4755  
Mobile: 860-203-8427  
e-mail: [wdbysel@woodburyct.org](mailto:wdbysel@woodburyct.org)

February 5, 2009

Dear Representative Conroy:

Over the past years you have most generously asked at the local level, "What can I do for you?" Well, today, CNVRAC and the thirteen other Regional Action Councils (RACs) across the state need your help. I am addressing the legislation from DMHAS that was raised by the Public Health Committee on 1/23/09, **An Act Concerning Regional Action Councils** which would result in the dissolution of 14 grassroots entities to 5 regional offices. This is a poor alternative to grassroots prevention that's been successfully ongoing in Connecticut for about 18 years.

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On behalf of the 14 RAC Executive Directors of the Connecticut Prevention network, I am asking that you share our plight with your legislative colleagues who are serving on the Public Health Committee, and *not* allow this proposal to move forward.

Please call me with any questions regarding this most important issue. I am most grateful for your strong support of the CNVRAC.

With best wishes,

*Jeremy C. Roderigo*

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EMS Director, Beacon Hose Company #1

**Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention**  
*P.O. Box 369*  
*Woodbury, CT 06798*

Dear Senator/Representative

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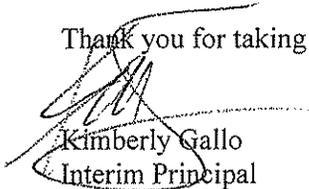
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DMHAS has said that all RAC's do is planning. As the Secretary of A.S.A.P., I see firsthand all the hands on work that is done in our community whether it's working with Region 14 school administration to bring the latest prevention strategies to our schools, or developing and presenting "Keeping Kids Safe" forums for parents of High School and Middle School students. The RAC also works with local and state law enforcement in our community to educate parents and students. Seniors in our community have worked with the RAC on "Brown Bag Days" to identify potentially lethal drug interactions with the help of a local pharmacy. These partnerships that have grown through the years are testament to the prevention work that's been accomplished and respected within our community. This outreach, and partnerships built up over the past 20 years would be greatly put at risk if we were to reduce the RACs from 14 to 5.

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**I ask that you PLEASE contact each of the RAC Directors and discuss their role in keeping our communities safe, before you vote on this important bill. I have attached a list of the directors for your convenience.**

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

  
Kimberly Gallo  
Interim Principal  
Nonnewaug High School



# NONNEWAUG HIGH SCHOOL

5 Minortown Road • Woodbury, Connecticut 06798 • (203) 263-2186

Kimberly Gallo, Interim Principal  
Eric Bergeron, Interim Assistant Principal

Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention  
P.O. Box 369  
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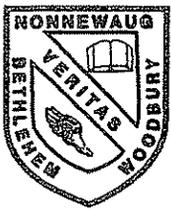
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Karen Prince  
Guidance Counselor  
Nonnewaug High School



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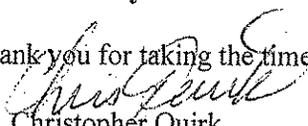
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DMHAS has said that all RAC's do is planning. As the Director of Special Services at Regional School District 14, I see firsthand all the hands on work that is done in our community whether it's working with A.S.A.P., to bring the latest prevention strategies to our schools, or developing and presenting "Keeping Kids Safe" forums for parents of High School and Middle School students. The RAC also works with local and state law enforcement in our community to educate parents and students. Seniors in our community have worked with the RAC on "Brown Bag Days" to identify potentially lethal drug interactions with the help of a local pharmacy. These partnerships that have grown through the years are testament to the prevention work that's been accomplished and respected within our community. This outreach, and partnerships built up over the past 20 years would be greatly put at risk if we were to reduce the RACs from 14 to 5.

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Dr. Christopher Quirk  
Director of Special Services  
Regional School District 14



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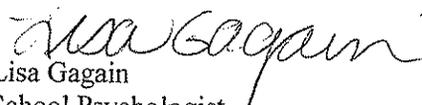
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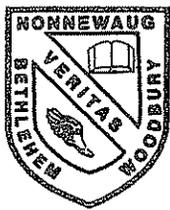
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Lisa Gagain  
School Psychologist  
Nonnewaug High School



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Susan Rossner  
Guidance Counselor  
Nonnewaug High School



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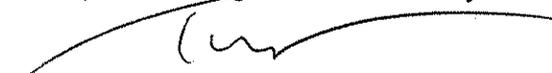
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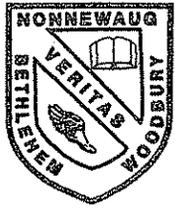
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Tara Rickart  
Guidance Counselor  
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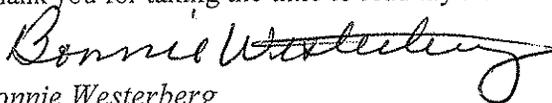
This measure is NOT cost neutral as DMHAS claims. It could, in fact, cost the state 100's of thousands of dollars as the RACs Drug Free Communities funding would be in jeopardy. Presently, 10 of the 14 RACs are Drug Free Communities generally receiving \$100,000 per year for up to ten years; and a number of the RACs also are recipients of SAMHSA Mentoring Grants of \$75,000 per year. The purpose of these mentoring grants is to provide funding to existing DFC grantees (mentors) to support development and/or expansion of new community coalitions (mentees) that are focused on substance abuse prevention.

DMHAS has said that all RAC's do is planning. As a member of A.S.A.P. I see firsthand all the hands on work that is done in our community. Whether it's working with Region 14 school administration to bring the latest prevention strategies to our schools, or developing and presenting "Keeping Kids Safe" forums for parents of High School and Middle School students. The Rac also works with local and state law enforcement in our community to educate parents and students. Seniors in our community have worked with the RAC on "Brown Bag Days" to identify potentially lethal drug interactions with the help of a local pharmacy. These partnerships that have grown through the years are testament to the prevention work that's been accomplished and respected within our community. This outreach, and partnerships built up over the past 20 years would be greatly put at risk if we were to reduce the RACs from 14 to 5.

In a phone conversation held with Tom DeLoe, Team Leader for SAMHSA's Drug Free Communities here in Connecticut, he told Mirelle Freedman, RAC Director for the Greater Hartford area that the DFC programs are very impressed with Connecticut's Regional Action Council system. That is why, a small state such as CT, has **10 of its 14 RACs designated DFC grantees.**

**I ask that you PLEASE contact each of the RAC Directors and discuss their role in keeping our communities safe, before you vote on this important bill. I have attached a list of the directors for your convenience.**

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.



Bonnie Westerberg

Nurse

Nonnewaug High School



# NONNEWAUG HIGH SCHOOL

5 Minortown Road • Woodbury, Connecticut 06798 • (203) 263-2186

Kimberly Gallo, *Interim Principal*  
Eric Bergeron, *Interim Assistant Principal*

*Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention*  
*P.O. Box 369*  
*Woodbury, CT 06798*

Dear Senator/Representative

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This measure is NOT cost neutral as DMHAS claims. It could, in fact, cost the state 100's of thousands of dollars as the RACs Drug Free Communities funding would be in jeopardy. Presently, 10 of the 14 RACs are Drug Free Communities generally receiving \$100,000 per year for up to ten years; and a number of the RACs also are recipients of SAMHSA Mentoring Grants of \$75,000 per year. The purpose of these mentoring grants is to provide funding to existing DFC grantees (mentors) to support development and/or expansion of new community coalitions (mentees) that are focused on substance abuse prevention.

DMHAS has said that all RAC's do is planning. As a social worker at Nonnewaug High School, I see firsthand all the hands on work that is done in our community whether it's working with A.S.A.P., to bring the latest prevention strategies to our schools, or developing and presenting "Keeping Kids Safe" forums for parents of High School and Middle School students. The RAC also works with local and state law enforcement in our community to educate parents and students. Seniors in our community have worked with the RAC on "Brown Bag Days" to identify potentially lethal drug interactions with the help of a local pharmacy. These partnerships that have grown through the years are testament to the prevention work that's been accomplished and respected within our community. This outreach, and partnerships built up over the past 20 years would be greatly put at risk if we were to reduce the RACs from 14 to 5.

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Sharon Gomes  
Social Worker  
Nonnewaug High School