

Please be advised that in 1998 The Wiggins Institute for Social Integrity, a think tank devoted to developing educational programs in which social integrity would be an outcome of public education, sent a letter to then Lt. Governor Jodi Rell requesting that we be included on the committee that would determine the disbursement of the \$3,600,000,000 CT would receive from the cigarette companies court settlement over the next 25 years.

We received a letter from her thanking us for our interest but advising us that she and a select few within the government would handle the matter. As near as we can tell, the nearly \$1,000,000,000 received thus far over the past 11 years did little to educate against smoking or to otherwise enhance childhood development and found their way into the general fund.

If the then Lt. Governor and her committee had been responsible to our children, the now Governor Rell would not be announcing her devastating cuts in our states most essential programs for children like the Connecticut Commission on Children and the Greater Danbury areas Danbury Children First Parent Leadership Training Institute. She would be assuring us that these essential programs would not only be preserved, but would continue to flourish, for at least another 14 years, because she and her committee had the foresight, respect and responsibility to earmark the 25 year, \$3,600,000,000 disbursements for Connecticut's greatest natural resource, our children.

Thanks For Listening,

Barry Finch, Former President  
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