

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

As a voting constituent in Danbury, I urge those in my delegation AND all legislators to review the data, note the savings associated with Prevention practices, and reinstate both the Commission on Children (COC) & Children's Trust Fund in our state budget.

Danbury has successfully implemented the COC's Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) initiative for over 12 years, with extraordinary results: Parents lead in our city, and beyond, on issues ranging from health & education, to safety & lifelong learning. Parents HELP legislators, local government leaders, school boards, agencies, faith communities and community leaders to improve outcomes for children through their leadership on Boards and Commissions, PTO councils, civic organizations, and in their own neighborhoods. We work collaboratively using our civic toolkit skills and knowledge. Danbury alone has 200 graduates. PLTI is active currently in 12 other CT locations.

At a time when the workplace will be drastically reduced, why TAKE AWAY those programs/initiatives that bring skilled and willing HELP from our citizens to our democratic process? Why eliminate the funding that enables such initiatives across our state?

Parents are a constituency that must not be overlooked. We are knowledgeable, skilled in civics, excellent messengers to other constituents, positive and effectively networked. We seek to work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children and families in our state.

My future votes and participation in local legislative campaigns will be determined by the actions taken by my local legislators. Please support the reinstatement of The Commission on Children and The Parent Trust Fund.

Respectfully,

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