



**Lower Naugatuck Valley
Parent Child Resource Center, Inc.**

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Michael J. Wynne
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February 5, 2009

Rep. Linda Gentile, Ansonia, CT
Rep. Themis Klarides, Derby, CT
Rep. Jason Perillo, Shelton, CT
Rep. David K. Labriolla, Naugatuck, CT
Rep. Theresa Conroy, Seymour, CT
Sen. Joseph Crisco, Woodbridge, CT
Sen. Daniel Debicella, Shelton CT
Sen. Rob Kane, Watertown, CT

Distinguished State Senators and Legislators:

I am writing to you in regards to *Raised Bill No. 6262 – An Act Regarding Regional Action Councils*. I am asking that you oppose this bill because it will negatively impact the Valley community.

As the local Child Guidance Clinic, we have collaborated with VSAAC on various projects that have benefited the families we service. In addition, we have utilized VSAAC's expertise and data to assist us with programs and funding. The resources they provide to the Valley community are extremely valuable and in today's economy we need prevention programs more than ever.

In addition, VSAAC brings in financial resources for crucial community programs from sources such as Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration's (SAMHSA) Drug Free Communities Grant and STOP ACT grant. In the past ten years, VSAAC has successfully brought in more than 1 million dollars in highly competitive federal funding to implement and design effective substance abuse prevention programs for Valley youth. **This funding will be jeopardized if the Regional Action Councils are consolidated under the proposed plan.** From what I have seen, the Valley's Regional Action Council has done a stellar job for the Valley community. Consolidating the Regional Action Councils can only result in diminished benefit to the Valley.

In its current structure, VSAAC is an effective, crucial and revenue producing community resource that is helping to prevent and address substance abuse issues across the Valley. As a lawmaker and key stakeholder in our community, we ask that you support the work being done by VSAAC at the grassroots, community level and that you keep the Valley safe as a region by advocating against the passage of **Raised Bill No. 6262**.

Thank you for your support and for your commitment to serving the Valley community.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Wynne
Chief Executive Officer



LIVE UNITED



Valley United Way

Valley United Way
3 Corporate Drive, Suite 501
Shelton, CT 06484
(203) 926-9478
www.valleyunitedway.org

February 4, 2009

Ms. Pam Mautte
Valley Substance Abuse Action Council
435 Main Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Dear Pam:

I am writing in support of maintaining the Valley Substance Abuse Action Council in light of current proposals to regionalize services as proposed by Bill No. 6262 – An Act Regarding Regional Action Councils. Having been one of the people involved in organizing the community retreat which led to the creation of VSAAC in 1990, I have been able to view the organization and its accomplishments from the very beginning.

Back in 1990, the Valley and VSAAC became a model for the rest of the state. Though not funded in the original round of funding for Regional Action Councils, the Valley mobilized its efforts through the community retreat. Many of the other areas that had already received funding were not able to move so quickly to build the type of support so critical to the success of the model envisioned in the creation of Regional Action Councils. The state was so impressed with what was accomplished that they quickly found the funding because they recognized what had been accomplished and the tremendous potential to do even more with staffing in place.

Time has proven that VSAAC has indeed been successful in advancing the mission assigned to Regional Action Councils and adapting to an ever changing environment. The affiliation with the Birmingham Group is just another sign of VSAAC's ability to grow and adapt. Along the way, the organization has partnered with government, nonprofit and businesses to advance its mission. It has also been very successful in bringing in additional grant dollars to further its programs.

Our United Way has been a long time partner with VSAAC and served as the original home for the organization while it was securing its I.R.S. Our Youth Leaders have forged a strong bond with VSAAC and have collaborated on a number of innovative projects designed to reduce substance abuse among teenagers in the Valley.

In short, I believe that VSAAC has become the very model of what a Regional Action Council should be. Losing VSAAC to a larger regional organization would severely damage substance abuse prevention efforts the Valley. If anything, VSAAC's strong track record and your leadership with all the volunteers associated with the organization demonstrate that VSAAC should remain in its current structure to

CAMPAIGN UNDERWRITERS

Basement Systems, Inc. · Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte & Sterczala · Fletcher-Thompson, Inc. · Fred Ortolli Photography · Gexpro
· Housatonic Lumber Company · Inform Printing · Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. · The Kerite Company
· Regional Water Authority · Riverview & Edward F. Adzima Funeral Homes · Venman & Co., LLC · The W.E. Bassett Company · Webster Bank