

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Appropriations Committee Testimony  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2702  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

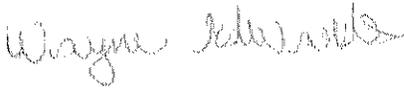
To whom it may concern;

I am writing in support of keeping the STRIVE program in the Department of Labor Budget. The STRIVE program has been a staple in the community for over twelve years, and statewide has served thousands of individuals. I personally graduated the program on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I have a learning disability and the staff at STRIVE really helped me out. They worked with me and gave me the push that I needed and the confidence that I was lacking.

With an extremely lean budget, and a proven track record of success, it would be foolish to cut a program that yields such high results. I understand that many tough decisions need to be made, and I do not envy your position. With a low cost, high impact program such as STRIVE, I believe it would be extremely unwise to cut their funding. I strongly encourage you to fight to keep STRIVE in the budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me at the information below with any questions or concerns you might have.

Sincerely,



Wayne D. Edwards  
319 Winthrop Ave.  
New Haven, CT 06511  
203-500-8933