

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Appropriations Committee Testimony

Legislative Office Building, Room 2702

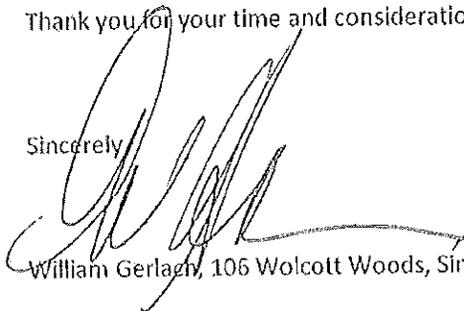
Hartford, Ct 06106-1591

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing in support of the STRIVE program to be retained in the Department of Labor Budget. This is one of the most successful programs which afford ex-offenders and others the opportunity and ability to get themselves back in the mainstream of society and find employment. STRIVE has been a staple in the Connecticut community for over twelve years. Hundreds of our residents have re-entered the world of employment through the STRIVE initiative, and through this process have become tax payers and positive role models. I know budget decisions are extremely difficult, given the fact that STRIVE is a low cost, high impact program ; would it not be prudent to do so. I encourage you to keep STRIVE in the budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



William Gerlach, 106 Wolcott Woods, Simsbury 06070....860-217-1581