

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> of 2013 with cycle 125-6. Coming to this program and meeting the staff was amazing to me. I was going to quit one day because of some personal issues that were stressing me out but I was stopped by my facilitator Ameer Williams. He gave me some words of encouragement and convinced me to stay and complete the program. When he did that that made me have a greater respect for the STRIVE program, because that made me feel as though the people that run the program are not only here for a paycheck but they actually care about the people that come through those doors.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Jordan".

Andrew Jordan  
482 Carrington Road  
Bethany, CT 06524  
203-909-0734