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Appropriations Committee Testimony  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2702  
Hartford, CT 06105 1591

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask you to restore Department of Labor funding to the Connecticut STRIVE Program. I know these are tough economic times for our state. I also know that this is a program that works. How do I know this? I know this as an employee of STRIVE-Hartford who sees the results every day. I know that STRIVE has served thousands of people in at risk communities throughout our state for over a dozen years. It works by teaching a person to fish instead of handing that person a fish. STRIVE sets people with barriers to employment on the right track – emotionally, attitudinally, strategically, and in most cases, for life.

STRIVE is a low cost option that yields impressive results. Many of the clients served by STRIVE are ex-offenders with few options for training and placement—clients who reenter the workplace after graduation instead of returning to a correctional facility. STRIVE has a 70% placement record with nearly 75% of our clients keeping their job after two years. It is a win-win situation when low prison recidivism rates save Connecticut taxpayers money and newly productive employees help to keep the Connecticut economy fueled.

Please consider restoring the funds to this critical program—for their benefit and for the benefit of our economy as a whole.

Very truly,



Kate Kimmerle  
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