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**From:** Victoria Christgau <vchristgau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 9:47 AM  
**To:** AppropriationTestimony  
**Subject:** Save After School Programing

Dear Governor Malloy,

We are writing today to encourage your support in keeping the After School programs alive in our state. With the amount of attention going to gun violence and school safety, there is no better safety precaution then to educate a child.

1. **After school programs keep kids safe,**

- Juvenile crime is greatest from 3 pm to 6 pm in the hours after school while parents are at work.
- Children who participate in after school programs are less likely to use drugs, become teen parents, or become victims or perpetrators of crime.

The Connecticut Center for Nonviolence in partnership with COOP High School in New Haven, has been conducting the ThinkING Youth Nonviolence Leadership after school program for three years. We are teaching our most vulnerable youth the benefits of conflict reconciliation, with vivid academically rigorous connections to American Civil Rights history and direct application of nonviolence methods for solving conflicts in daily life without resorting to violence.

Students have voluntarily enrolled two sessions in a row stating that

"If I didn't have this program I don't know where I would be"

Another sixteen year old said " I never thought twice about hitting and fighting with my sister or cussing out someone in class, this training has helped me to be **less violent**. I can't wait to see what happens **over a longer period of time**"

We must allow youth the opportunity for growth that they deserve. We are dependent on your careful consideration. We can not afford to loose these valuable after school programs. We have lost thousands of people of color in horrible gun violence, and in the unthinkable direct line from schools to prison.

How is it possible that we would cut funding for something as fundamental as positive education that can save lives?.

Thank you for doing all you can to ensure the health and welfare of our CT youth at a critical time in our country. We must stand for education to ensure safety for our children.

**Just Peace,**

Victoria Christgau

Executive Director

CT Center for Nonviolence

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Victoria Christgau  
Executive Director  
CT Center for Nonviolence

**Housed at: UConn School of Social Work**  
1798 Asylum Ave - West Hartford, CT, 06117

**Contact Information / mailing address**

P.O. Box 1085  
Hartford, CT 06143  
Office/Cell: 860-567-3441  
[vchristgau@gmail.com](mailto:vchristgau@gmail.com)  
[www.ctnonviolence.org](http://www.ctnonviolence.org)

**Hartford Neighborhood Site:**

Northend Church of Christ  
687 Albany Ave  
Hartford, CT 06112

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