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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 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, October 14 2012 and can tell you firsthand that I would not be as successful as I am today without the assistance of STRIVE.

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.

If it was not for strive I would be sitting home with no job and no experience to get a job; this means I would be collecting from the state, such as food stamps, health insurance, and also housing. Strive gave me a chance. They believed in me, and now I have a full time job with Hebrew Health Care, and I love it. I have become a working woman with a great mind set to achieve and do great things. I believe If you had more places like STRIVE we would be a better America, where people could learn who they are, and what they want to do. STRIVE does this. Without this program I think a lot of people like me will fall short and not get the chance that they all deserve.

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

Sincerely,



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