

Testimony

Date:

Appropriation committee

My Name is Shanelle Sanchez and I live in Manchester
 I am 15 years old, I am in the 10th grade, and attend Manchester Regional Academy
 and I am a current Work to Learn participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in Hartford and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * Youth Advisory Board is a great learning experience.
- * Summer Youth Employment is something I look forward to every year.
- * I have had the opportunity to connect with peers in diverse areas of the state.
- * Financial Literacy has helped me to plan for my financial future.
- * The work to learn program makes me feel like I am doing something important.
- * The various programs at DPP help me stay out of trouble.
- * All of the above help me stay social and engaged in the community.

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

- Do not cut funding to our programs.
- Offer more incentives.
- Add a variety of programs.
- Invite us to your meetings to hear our voices.
- Increase presence on social media.
- Add more technology to programs.

Testimony

Date:

Appropriation committee

My Name is Justin Marrero and I live in East Hartford

I am 18 years old, I am in the 12 grade, and attend Synergy,
and I am a current Work to Learn participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * MUSE
- * JAM Arts
- * Academic tutoring support
- * Mentoring
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

Expand ~~and~~ the program.

Testimony

Date:

Appropriation committee

My Name is La Vaughn Barrecks and I live in Hartford, CT

I am 17 years old, I am in the 10 grade, and attend High Road Schools of Hartford
and I am a current Work to Learn participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * River Right Boat builders has done alot for me
- * Academic Support
- * Mentoring Program
- * Building charity projects
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system abut I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

Expand the OPP program so that it is available to more youth in the same situations as I Also not cut or reduce and funds or contracts

Testimony

Date: 2/20/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is REGINA CHAVIS and I live in Eastmanford
I am 15 years old, I am in the 10th grade, and attend Woodland School
and I am a current Work to Learn participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * FICA account
- * Youth Buissness
- * Summer youth employment
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system abut I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

Keep funding us money so I can
continue coming to opp.

Testimony

Date: 2/26/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Orion Dennis and I live in Hartford

I am 18 years old, I am in the 12 grade, and attend Hartford public high school
and I am a current Work to Learn participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * Ida account
- * youth business
- * summer youth employment
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system abut I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

continue founding money to the program am involved in

Testimony

Date: 2/25/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Dylon Cebb and I live in Hartford
I am 19 years old, I am in the Graduate grade, and attend _____,
and I am a current Work to Learn participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in app and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * Pen Foster for diploma
- * job readiness
- * job placement
- * follow up service
- * YCLIS
- * positive surroundings & friends
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

Continue to fund the program. Money well spent on kids

Testimony

Date: Feb 26, 2015

Appropriation committee

My Name is Derwin Breary and I live in Hartford

I am 20 years old, I am in the _____ grade, and attend _____, and I am a current Work to Learn participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in Our Piece of the Pie and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * asset matching to purchase car
- * financial literacy
- * my VDS
- * job training / placement
- * educational guidance to help me graduate
- * _____
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

Continue to provide money for work to learn to be able to provide services to young people in Our Piece of the Pie.

Testimony

Date: 2/26/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Nick G and I live in Hartford CT

I am 19 years old, I am in the _____ grade, and attend Penn Foster, and I am a current Work to Learn participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * Vocational Service
- * Job readiness Training
- * People who really care
- * Consistency
- * Love
- * 1st hand acct
- * Financial Literacy

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

if you continue finding for others in foster care to help them become
coming adults who are self sufficient

Testimony

Date: 2/26/2015

Appropriation committee

My Name is Yaira Hernandez and I live in uncasville

I am 17 years old, I am in the 11th grade, and attend montiville high school,
and I am a current Work to Learn program participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP Norwich and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * Learning how to keep and get a job
- * Educational Field trip such as weather museum
- * undering importance of staying school and NOT drop out
- * career planning
- * budgeting (how to manage money)
- * keep me out of trouble and do things for my future meaning change in additue
- * helps with getting an apartment and car

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system abut I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

if you take OPP Norwich away from me i would be able to graduate my
high school year because of the program i am going to do online.
OPP has helped me with so much in my life made me change who
i am to becoming a better person that wants to go somewhere
in life and not be someone that has no where to go. OPP
has helped me so much without it i dont know where i'd be.

Testimony

Date: 2/26/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Maddalena Metz and I live in Norwich

I am 17 years old, I am in the 11th grade, and attend Norwich Free Academy, and I am a current Work to Learn program participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP Norwich and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * Pre-employment training
- * Field Trips to - New Hampshire, City Hall, The Bushnell
- * Resume, and cover letter writing, developing interview skills
- * Financial literacy training
- * Internships
- * Job searching assistance
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

If opp wasn't here I wouldn't have assistance
in job training, learning how to interact with people, and
being a better self-advocate. IF you continue to
fund OPP programs and allow me to keep attending every
week it would make a difference.

Testimony

Date: 2/26/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Cristina Lopez and I live in Norwich CT

I am _____ years old, I am in the _____ grade, and attend Norwich free Academy and I am a current Work to Learn program participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in UYP norwich and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * They helped me open an IDA account
- * They give internship opportunity's
- * Teach employment skills
- * Social
- * Non-judgemental
- * Job ready
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

This program helped me get off probation and showed me the reasons why selecting in life it was better not worrying about going to court

Testimony

Date: 2/26/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Irene Marceau and I live in Norwich

I am 16 years old, I am in the 11 grade, and attend Sachem High (NFA) and I am a current Work to Learn program participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * Learning to build upon our social skills
- * Budgeting real life situations/ Managing money
- * Learning to express myself to youth in a productive manner
- * Job skills and life skill
- * State ID's, permit help and saving account
- * _____
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system abut I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

Testimony

Date: 2-26-15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Jhannah Martinez-Leish and I live in Norwich, Connecticut.

I am 15 years old, I am in the 10th grade, and attend Norwich Free Academy, and I am a current Work to Learn program participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP, Norwich and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * I am currently working on getting a state ID
- * This program helps me stay out of trouble.
- * I am learning how to take care of myself.
- * I am learning things in life that I wouldn't get in school.
- * I learn great employment skills.
- * They help me find jobs.
- * DA Account + Financial Literacy

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

This program has made me more responsible. Once I finish the program, I'll know how to cash my own checks and I'll know how to budget. It's a great program for teens.

Testimony

Date: 2/26/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Edwin Mercado and I live in New London

I am 16 years old, I am in the 11 grade, and attend OPP
and I am a current Work to Learn program participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * Working with People
- * relieves alot of stress
- * building stuff and painting is verry fun
- * going on field trips learning new things
- * I learn more stuff and different skills
- * _____
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system abut I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

I believe alot of difference can be made if you don't shut down this program because people appreciate and enjoy this program IS great and we learn alot of stuff with it. It helps us in life.

Testimony

Date: 2/26/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Gabe Hill and I live in Norwich CT.

I am 16 years old, I am in the 10 grade, and attend Elmer T. Grasso Tech. and I am a current Work to Learn program participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in OPP and these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * the art
- * the new people i can meet
- * the staff helping me
- * Im able to get my school work done
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

should not cut the place of OPP because
they might be the people im looking for to help
change my life

Testimony

Date: 2/26/15

Appropriation committee

My Name is Taylor Beidel and I live in New London Ct

I am 20 years old, I am in the College grade, and attend Independence University,
and I am a current Work to Learn program participant.

I would like to tell you why I believe you shouldn't cut or reduce Youth Employment and Training Contracts. I'm currently an active participant in a Work to Learn program in employment and Dorwich. these are the things that I enjoy and have been able to benefit from by participating in this program:

- * gotten plenty of ~~job~~ employment/Educational opportunities.
- * learned more about Banking and Budgeting
- * looks good on applications of any kind
- * Keeps me on track /out of trouble
- * It's been a second family.
- * mentally/emotionally kept me stable
- * It's an eye opening experience.

I didn't ask to be in the Foster care system but I do appreciate all the support and programs that are put in place to help me transition into adulthood just like all other regular youth that reside in our state.

I believe that you will make a difference if you:

Continue to allow OPP to work with the other youth and myself. This is a type of second home to us, and ~~some~~ for some of us, ~~as~~ the only stable aspect in our lives.