

ROBERT J. MCBRAIR
15 SANDY LANE
MARLBOROUGH, CT 06447

Testimony for March 3, 5pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Secondary Education Sub-committee,

As members of the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-Committee,,please know that I strongly oppose the proposed cuts included in the Governor's budget regarding Connecticut's Youth Service Bureaus.

Please help remove the \$1.3 million dollar reduction to YSBs from the Governor's proposal, (which includes the entire Enhancement Grant Line Item currently in the budget at \$620,000 and an approximately \$700,000 cut in the Cost Sharing grant that YSBs receive for being a Youth Service Bureau.

The State of Connecticut invests just over \$3,000,000 in 102 Youth Services Bureaus statewide. In return those Youth Service Bureaus collectively raise nearly 30 million dollars through the municipalities they serve, private and public grants, fundraisers and private contributions.

In the last two years YSBs reported having served over 448,000 youth and parents through many of the same programs that our own (AHM Youth and Family Services) provides to local citizens in our four communities. These programs all fall into the categories of mental health services, juvenile justice services, prevention, youth and family development programs.

Please help our children develop into caring, tax paying, productive members of our great state. WE SIMPLY CAN NOT AFFORD NOT TO.

Sincerely,

Robert J. McBair