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

**RE: Testimony for March 3, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. for the
Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee**

The Governor's Budget proposes to:

- 1. Completely cut of the Enhancement Funding line item of \$620,000.00**
- 2. Cut \$700,000.00 from of the overall YSB Cost Sharing Grant line item from the State Department of Education (SDE) budget. The two cuts total a loss of 1.3 million dollars for YSBs.**
- 3. Also of great concern and opposed by CYSA is moving the YSBs from SDE management to be under the management of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). CYSA has forged a collaborative and stable partnership with SDE. Together, we have implemented Results Based Accountability to our work with students. Local YSBs are complementary to local education agencies and an integral part of the infrastructure of the local communities.**

I am a retired Marriage and Family Therapy clinical professor at Central CT State University, and a practicing marriage and family therapist. I have consulted with Bristol Youth Services (BYS) for over three years as the Clinical Supervisor, working with the team of the Youth Advocates, the Outreach Workers and the family and group social workers. I consider myself to be in an excellent position to attest to the tremendous importance the BYS has for the town of Bristol. The Director, Ms. Eileen McNulty has worked tirelessly and with a strong commitment to the youth and families of Bristol. She has used her energy and forethought to guide her staff toward a vigorous positive presence in the Bristol schools and

with identifying at-risk youth in the community. Her emphasis in services springs from a substantial awareness of the needs of the community and a tenacious drive to foster a sound connection and cooperative working relationship with community and State partners in meeting these needs.

At CCSU I also supervised several MFT interns who worked at YSBs throughout the state, and I can attest that these YSBs also functioned with a forcible commitment to meet the needs of youth and their families, to divert the youth from involvement with the justice system or from becoming victims of violence or abuse. In all of these YSBs, programming was provided to emphasize an offering of services to aid in ameliorating conditions leading to teenage pregnancy, suicide, violence, substance abuse, cultural intolerance, anti-social or self-destructive behavior, and the neglect or abuse of children.

It is incomprehensible to me that any monies can be withdrawn from the already under-funded YSB programs. Please make sure this does not happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sandra s. Schrader, Ph.D., LMFT