

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

Good afternoon

My name is Nichole Sun, and my husband and I are residents and taxpayers of Andover, CT. I would like to voice my opposition as a Connecticut taxpayer to the Governor's proposed budget cuts to our YSBs. I ask that you please do all that you can to remove the \$1.3 million dollar cut to YSBs from the Governor's proposal!

I also am a member of the Board of Directors for AHM Youth & Family Services (AHM), our local Youth Service Bureau serving the four Connecticut towns of Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Columbia. I decided to become involved with this organization after being wholly impressed through their family development programs - not just the level of excellence, diligence and caring the employees provide but also for the number and quality of important programs and services they provide in the areas of mental health services, juvenile justice services, prevention programs, in addition to the youth and family development programs previously mentioned. The work that they do is in collaboration with and supportive of other essential state supported functions such as schools and police departments. Without them, these functions will be strained and our communities will suffer.

The State of Connecticut invests just over 3 million dollars in YSBs for the entire state but in return those YSBs raise almost 30 million dollars through the municipalities they serve, through private and public grants, fundraisers and private contributions. I have worked alongside the employees of AHM on fundraisers and our family and so many others have benefited from its programs. They work tirelessly to provide quality programs and are always budget conscious with no waste. Significant state cuts, as proposed, to the YSBs will be devastating to these organizations. These YSBs are crucial to keeping our children and families, our very communities, healthy!

Please help make sure that these cuts do not go through!

Thank you,  
Nichole Sun