



**Testimony Submitted by Klingberg Family Centers in Support of
Restoring the Funding to The Governor's Prevention Partnership (DHMAS Budget)**
March 6, 2015

We are here today to support one of our premiere community partners: The Governor's Prevention Partnership as they face major cuts to their state funding. As a public-private partnership, we at Klingberg Family Centers, are motivated to support The Partnership for many reasons.

Klingberg Family Centers is part of the Hartford Collaborative and the Juvenile Justice Mentoring Network. We work in collaboration with The Governor's Prevention Partnership to provide quality Mentoring to youth in the New Britain area. Klingberg follows the program model of the Elements of Effective Practice of Mentoring with the youth, families, and mentors they serve. We value our work with The Governor's Prevention Partnership as they provide our team with training and technical assistance in the Mentoring area.

I have been most impressed by how the Partnership is able to gather mentoring programs from across the state, and not only provide excellent well organized trainings, but also effectively and efficiently use the expertise of the individual organizations to support and educate each other through their consistent encouragement of collaboration. The Partnership has been an incredible source of both support and inspiration as we grow and develop our volunteer youth mentoring programs.

The Klingberg Family Center's connection to The Governor's Partnership is a strategic decision. Through their reach to more than 150 mentoring organizations in Connecticut, our support is leveraged to have a greater impact throughout the state. The Partnership also has brought critical resources to law enforcement, community coalitions and organizations, school leaders, state agencies, youth groups and parents so that young people in our state can grow up free from substance abuse, underage drinking, violence, and bullying and be able to take their place in our future workforce.

There are **three key reasons** that the time is NOW to support prevention of dangerous issues affecting our youth in Connecticut:

- (1) Prevention is cost effective and saves the state money.** Nearly \$10 is returned for every dollar invested in prevention. Over the past 25 years, The Partnership has leveraged over \$14 million dollars in private funding, matching the government's investment in prevention.
- (2) Dangerous threats continue to affect kids in CT**—right now prescription drug abuse, sometimes leading to heroin use, is prevalent among teens and communities across the state. In fact, 11% of the state's high schoolers have reported abusing a prescription drug to get high.
- (3) Over the years, The Partnership has provided important training and assistance to over 100,000 educators and prevention specialists, impacted more than 3 million young people; and reached 2 million parents and caregivers with essential information about dangerous issues affecting their kids.**

The Partnership needs to have its funding restored so that it may continue to provide the training and resources that parents, educators, community leaders, and our young people depend on.

The Governor's Prevention Partnership has twenty-six years of experience working with schools, law enforcement, parents, youth serving organizations, government and businesses to keep Connecticut's kids safe, successful and drug-free today, for a stronger workforce tomorrow. Klingberg Family Centers is proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with The Governor's Prevention Partnership and ask you to consider the devastating impact a reduction in funding will have on the youth of Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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