

**Testimony for Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Health On the DMHAS Budget  
H.B. 6824, the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget  
An act concerning the state budget for biennium ending June 30, 2017, and making  
appropriations therefore and other provisions related to revenue.**

**By Jill Spineti, President and CEO  
The Governor's Partnership to Protect Connecticut's Workforce  
DBA The Governor's Prevention Partnership  
March 6, 2015**

Good afternoon, Senator Gerratana, Representative Dillon, Senator Formica, Representative Betts and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Jill Spineti and I am the president of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. For over 25 years, our non-profit organization has been bringing 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.*

I'm here today to ask you to reinstate funding for keeping prevention intact so that our young people can grow and thrive in nurturing families and communities.

Three key reasons that the time is NOW to support the need for prevention of dangerous issues affecting our youth in Connecticut:

**Prevention is cost effective and saves the state money.** Nearly \$10 is returned for every dollar invested in prevention. Our public-private partnership model has been put to work for 25 years, and in that time we have leveraged over \$14 million dollars in private funding, matching the government's investment in prevention.

Right now we are working with 56 businesses and corporate partners who provide resources for youth prevention. (List attached to my written testimony.)

The Partnership enlists businesses to invest in prevention, thereby building a strong public/private partnership—which was our founding goal and hallmark for success.

Unfortunately, the cuts to prevention that are proposed in the budget will affect our ability to leverage private dollars, so the total loss of dollars is almost double of what the actual cut is.

**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. Last week we heard about the horrible consequences on one of our campuses



where college students used Molly, which is a form of Ecstasy—these issues occur frequently and must be addressed quickly and effectively with strategies and tactics that are proven by research to work. And they must be comprehensive and collaborative.

**This public-private partnership works.** Over the years, we have 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.

As I stand before you today, I know millions of young people in Connecticut are in a better place because of this organization and their partnership with countless other state leaders like yourselves, agencies, organizations, and businesses. Our future is bright, and with your continued support, the goal of The Partnership may continue to help young people here grow, prosper, and become productive members of our future workforce.

In the days ahead, I ask for your continued financial support as we move forward on key initiatives that are before us at this very moment.

We are working with 9 mentoring programs and Court Support Services to provide mentoring services to young people in the juvenile justice system to reduce recidivism, a new and nationally tested approach to improving outcomes for these young people. We have begun the Connecticut Mentoring Fund, with your support, to aid mentoring programs that want to strengthen or expand their efforts. We're working to reduce chronic absenteeism with the Alliance Districts through expanding school based mentoring. We're getting messages out through traditional and social media channels to raise awareness about drugs and underage drinking. Last year alone, we generated 30 million impressions. We're supporting over 100 chapters of Students Against Destructive Decisions in the state and launching a new and innovative peer-to-peer youth prevention program.

Our services are nimble, cost-effective, critical, and relied upon for development of a successful future of our youth. Please consider reversing the cuts in the proposed budgets to The Governor's Prevention Partnership and the Regional Action Councils so that strong prevention efforts can continue.

Thank you for your support.

*Jill Spinetti*

President & CEO  
860.523.8042 x 30  
jill.spinetti@preventionworksct.org  
30 Jordan Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109  
www.preventionworksct.org

In Celebration  
of 25 years, The  
Partnership's  
Governor's Cabinet.



# A Message from The Governor's Prevention Partnership ...

Over the years, our partners have made it possible for us to serve children in schools and communities throughout Connecticut with quality mentoring programs, and bullying, underage drinking and drug abuse prevention resources. We thank you.

## Governor's Community Leader



## Governor's Champion



## Main Street Guiding Partners

- AT&T
- Dominion
- Guilford Savings Bank
- Hartford Distributors, Inc.
- The Hartford
- Xerox Foundation

## Governor's Partners in Prevention



## Visionary Partners



## Supporting Partners



## Main Street Partners

- Accenture • Aquarion • Blue Sky Studios • Bristol Hospital • Carla's Pasta • CBIA • CEA • Connecticut Children's Medical Center • Griffin Hospital • Hospital for Special Care • The Jackson Laboratory • Middlesex Hospital • Nufern • OKAY Industries • O&G Industries, Inc. • Santa Energy Corporation • Stanley Black & Decker • Trinity College • UConn Health • Westinghouse



30 Jordan Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860.523.8042 • [www.preventionworksct.org](http://www.preventionworksct.org)