



The Connection

Community-based Services, Advocacy
and Research for Connecticut

March 6, 2015

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Robin Callahan and I am Prevention Coordinator at the Connection, Inc. and **Coordinator of the New Haven Local Prevention Council (NHLPC)**. The NHLPC provides Substance Abuse Prevention for adults and youth in New Haven, and works closely with BHcare's, Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council (GVSAAC). At this time I would like to ask you to restore funding for the Regional Action Councils!

I have worked closely with BHcare's Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council for the past several years. Reductions in funding the Regional Action Councils would weaken and close down prevention initiatives in our community. The technical assistance, trainings, and collaborations they provide have helped create a strong prevention movement here in the City of New Haven. Through our work with GVSAAC we have been able to:

- Install a Medication Drop Box
- Create a New Haven Drug Endangered Children's Alliance
- Provide training and education to providers and community members on such subjects as
 - Prescription Drugs Use Prevention
 - Underage Drinking Prevention
 - Problem Gambling Prevention
 - Youth Marijuana Prevention
 - Youth Suicide Prevention

I ask you to restore the funding for the Regional Action Councils, as without them we would not have access to the wide array of comprehensive prevention and education programs or expertise in the field of substance abuse prevention.

Sincerely,

Robin M. Callahan
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