

March 6, 2015

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

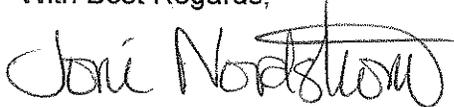
I am Joni Nordstrom from ODAAC (Orange Drug/Alcohol Action Committee) that serves the towns of Orange, Bethany and Woodbridge, Connecticut. I am asking that you restore funding for the Regional Action Councils. Over the past several years, I have worked hand in hand with BHcare's, Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council (GVSAAC). GVSAAC is one of the State's 13 Regional Action Council and a member of The CT Prevention Network (CPN).

I ask that you restore the funding because GVSAAC is where we turn for guidance and support around issues such as substance abuse and suicide prevention, as well as mental health promotion. They provide valuable resources, data, and current information in which we develop programs and services to address the issues of concern in our community.

GVSAAC is an extremely valuable and proactive organization that provides ODAAC with educational courses, workshops and pamphlets on: Mental Health First Aid for Youth and Adults, Suicide Prevention, Medical Marijuana Legislation and statistics, Opioid & Heroin Use & Prescription Drug Misuse/Abuse, Stress Management, Tobacco Use, Underage Drinking/Alcohol Use, and Alcohol Use/Misuse and Abuse. GVSAAC also supports ODAAC in providing our community with speakers on the important topic of prevention, surveys that help measure our needs in the community as well as in our schools and open forum community conversations.

Without GVSAAC, ODAAC would not have the much needed support and guidance to continue these valuable programs that greatly benefit our elementary schools, our regional high school and our community as a whole.

With Best Regards,



Joni Nordstrom Director/Coordinator ODAAC

617 Orange Center Road

Orange, CT 06477