

March 5, 2015

Testimony For March 3, 5 pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee – Governor’s Proposed cuts to Youth Service Bureaus

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

My name is Katherine Graham and I a resident of Glastonbury, CT and a staff member of AHM Youth and Family Services in Hebron Ct.

I am writing this to you to voice my opposition as a Connecticut taxpayer to the proposed cuts included in the Governor’s budget regarding Connecticut’s 102 Youth Service Bureaus.

Please remove the \$1.3 million dollar cut to Youth Service Bureaus. AHM Youth and Family Services means a lot to me and the people who come here for services. As a Clinical Administrator and Receptionist I hear all different stories from clients who come here for services and how important it is to have a place like AHM around. AHM has professional people who serve to the best of their abilities to help others around them. The programs we serve fall into categories of mental health services, juvenile justice services, prevention programs, youth and family development programs. It would be a huge loss for the communities that we serve if these cuts go through. **Please Help Make Sure That These Cuts Do Not Go Through!**

Youth Service Bureaus raise nearly 30 million dollars through the municipalities they serve, through private and public grants, fundraisers and private contributions. Youth Service Bureaus have served 448,000 youth and parents through many of the same programs that our own local youth services (AHM Youth and Family Services). Our services are very important to the people in the community we serve.

Again, please make sure these cuts do not go through!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Katherine Graham

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