Flynn, Eileen

From: Paul Rosin <rosinp@criinc.org>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 12:37 PM
To: HSTestimony
Subject: Budget

I am writing in response to the Governor's 2016-2017 State Budget proposal.

I an employee of a human service not-for-profit agency that contracts with DCF. We operate four (4) Short Term Assessment and Respite (STAR) Programs, a Therapeutic Group home, and provide foster care and permanency to more than 150 children. I am very concerned about the DCF budget. In particular I am concerned about the following:

- Given the need for stability and structure for hundreds of Connecticut's most vulnerable youth, I do not think it is sound from a programmatic or fiscal perspective to close a STAR Program or a Therapeutic Group Home. The kids that are sent to these programs need, on a time limited basis, a higher level of care then they can get in a foster home.
- Given the needs of the children in Foster Care, I am concerned that the Governor's budget is cutting wrap funds that provide necessary supports and services to the kids in these homes.
- Not-for-Profit Agencies have not received a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), other than a 1% that was then off-set, in seven (7) years. In order for not-for profits to hire and retain competent and caring staff they need to be paid a livable and equitable wage.

In your deliberations I am asking you to work to add back the three group homes and the wrap funds that are being cut and to work with the Governor to find money to provide a COLA so that not-for-profits can pay its staff fair and equitable wages and decent benefits.

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