

Testimony for March 3, 5pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee

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

My name is Kevin Saythany and I am currently a student at the University of Connecticut and also a member of the Youth Service And Family Advisory Board in Norwich, Connecticut. My deepest reason for sending this important message is to call upon you all to **STOP** the \$1.3 million dollar cut from passing in the State Legislature.

As you all may have already know, the \$1.3 million dollar cut includes the entire Enhancement Grant currently in the budget at \$620,000 and the Cost Sharing Grant at approximately \$700,000. Both of these grants are important as these grants provide direct services designed to provide supports and build assets for youth, including special populations such as justice involved youth, youth with mental health needs, other youth at risk, and youth needing services to enhance their education and career advancement. If the budget plan gets the required votes needed to pass, I will be deeply concerned about the impact of these cuts and how it will have an effect on the ability of YSBs to leverage additional funding.

In addition to the monetary cuts, the YSB system will be removed from the Department of Education (SDE) and placed under Department of Children and Families (DCF). The legislative action to place YSB under DCF will be problematic. There is a data system that YSB has worked on for years using school outcomes as a measure of success for those youth YSBs serve, and if the proposed budget plan becomes implemented, it will easily eliminate that system entirely.

I hope you all will be at the testimony for March 3, 5pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee to listen closely and carefully to the grievances of the people and members who work hard evaluating, planning, coordinating and implementing services to help delinquents, pre-delinquents, pregnant women, young parents, and troubled youths.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this concern that I have with the upcoming budget plan. I personally ask for your support.