

To the Appropriations Committee:

I am writing to plead with you to not support the governor's diminishing funding for Youth Services Bureaus and Regional Action Councils in CT. Young people need these organizations to help them learn about prevention services for substance abuse, suicide, teen pregnancy and how to deal with mental health problems. Do we want another Sandy Hook on our hands? I think not.

It is crucial to maintain the level of support for these bureaus that already operate on tiny budgets but do so much to support our youth and family. In Clinton, CT our Youth Services bureau has increased substance abuse awareness in the high schools enough that there has been a 20% drop in seniors stating they drink. With legalized marijuana in some states and medical marijuana available here, do we want to send a message to our youth that it is okay to use this and then deal with the domino effect of issues?

Governor Malloy is worried about selling liquor at cheaper prices and for longer hours but not about our youth! Really?

I am pleading to you to maintain the level of funding (or increase it)

Melanie Elliot  
Clinton, CT