

Written Testimony of Diego Gleyzer, Case Manager/Group Facilitator
The Fatherhood Program
Madonna Place, Inc.
240 Main Street
Norwich, CT 06360

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Public Hearing – February 27, 2015
Public Hearing on the Governor’s Proposed Budget

My testimony is in opposition to the proposal to eliminate funding of the three sources for fatherhood programming.

1. The John S. Martinez Fatherhood Initiative Programs, funded by the Department of Social Services since 1999.
2. The Department of Children and Families “Lower Priority Contracted Services” Fatherhood Initiative.
3. The Office of Early Childhood, Children’s Trust Fund line item.

Human Society.... We are held up by two equally important and essential pillars: A Mother (Pause) and a Father. Without one, we are weak and ineffective... Without both, we are lost and without hope.

Hello, my name is Diego Gleyzer and I have been doing Social Work for over 15 years. I was raised by a single mother, without the Love and support of a father. I was able to become a productive and positive member of society, however some are not that lucky. As Human Beings we all need the compassion and support of a wonderful Mother as well as the nurturing and Love of a great Father. That Love can manifest itself in many ways. Fathers can Love their children by providing a roof over their heads, food for their little tummies and a caring, nurturing environment in which to succeed in life. We grow as people with the tools we are given. Without the knowledge and support of a Father, our toolbox is only half full. Without all of the proper tools, we will surely struggle in life.

The Fatherhood Initiative in the great state of Connecticut is a crucial component in helping Fathers realize their potential as Men. With this help, they can become the pillars that will hold their children up until they are ready to fly enthusiastically from the nest. These children will grow up to run our society, so they need to be stable and prepared.

I have worked with many clients who did not have fathers in their lives. Many of these people have lived a life filled with addiction, crime and resentment. They are unsure of the right path to take because it was never shown to them. I’ve also worked with many fathers who have been reunited with their children because of the fatherhood program. Fathers who simply needed a little help to get back on the right track. After doing what they needed to do, these fathers have

moved on to lead positive and fruitful lives. Their children are now safer and better prepared to be productive members of society

I am asking you as a Tax Paying U.S. Citizen, a Father and most importantly as a Human Being to please continue funding this tremendously essential program. If the FHI is cut from the budget completely, Fathers who just need a little help will have nowhere to go. Those Fathers will then end up in Jail or simply running away from their responsibilities. We sorely need these programs available to people who are trying to raise healthier more empathetic people.

Please don't give up on fathers. If you do, you will essentially be giving up on all of us.

We are nothing without Love.

**I am also writing in support of the Family School Connection Program within the office of early childhood. **