

Steven H. Levine

**250 Hume Drive
Hamden, Ct. 06514
Tel- 203 – 248 – 8549
joannsteve@sbcglobal.net**

Re: Teen Pregnancy Initiative/ Teen Outreach Program

2/26/2015

To Whom It May Concern:

State budget cuts are a current critical issue. However, long term benefits and, especially, costs, also have to be an important consideration.

The Teen Pregnancy Initiative, also known in local school systems as the Teen Outreach Program (TOP), is an evidence based program with proven success. In the immediate short- term, scrapping this program will save some money. In the long term, as the evidence shows, it will cost state huge amounts. The difference between spending \$2,000,000 now or costing \$230,000,000 over the long term should not be a big decision.

It is sad that these decisions even have to be made, but please keep in mind that a successful running program cannot be turned on and off. There are people and strategies in place that are working and statistics prove it. To abandon such a vulnerable population, will not only change the lives of these children, but will be guaranteed to cost the state of Connecticut huge amounts for unlimited amounts of time.

As a School Psychologist in the public middle school sector, I witness the fragility of the at-risk teen age population every day. Without the Teen Pregnancy Initiative/ Teen Outreach Program, there is a sad likelihood that so many present teenagers will be lost for their lifetimes and they and their children will be a financial burden on the State of Connecticut for another generation.

Sincerely,

Steven Levine