

TESTIMONY OF YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Monday, March 2, 2015

Yale-New Haven Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning the proposed biennial budget regarding Department of Labor funding for CT STRIVE.

Yale-New Haven Hospital is the second largest employer in New Haven and an employer of choice both locally and regionally. It is imperative that our organization hires and retains the very best employees in order to provide the best quality and most compassionate health delivery services that our patients and families have come to expect. For over a decade Yale-New Haven has partnered with the STRIVE program in order to help meet the needs of this hospital.

We support the STRIVE Program and its role as an occupational therapist in CT for our community and our state. We are continually impressed by the STRIVE graduates we have hired because of the high standards and attention to quality that their clients are expected to meet while attending the STRIVE program. Those who have graduated from STRIVE are an example for others throughout the hospital.

We are asking you today to restore the full \$270,000 in state funding for this valuable program because we recognize the full value of investing in the economic stability of our state's residents. STRIVE has had a real impact in the lives of its participants and, as a result, left an indelible mark on the state of Connecticut. The state's funding lead to 145 individuals being reconnected to the workforce last year, and Yale-New Haven is proud to be a partner in this work.

When we hire STRIVE graduates we know that they will be punctual, well-groomed, forward thinking and coming with the correct attitude to get the job done. STRIVE graduates have learned, through the program, how to become invaluable team members and are well respected among their peers. The STRIVE tagline "prepared to work and ready to succeed" reflects perfectly the values of the candidates that we have interviewed and hired. To this end, Yale-New Haven has invested in STRIVE through technical assistance on curriculum development, support with classroom training, and governance oversight with representation on their board.

The investment that the Department of Labor makes in STRIVE produces tax-paying citizens who lessen the burden on the public support system. \$270,000 seems a small price to support employers and citizens in Connecticut, and therefore the restoration of the full funding of this program benefits our state, all of its citizens, and its employers.

Thank you for your support of STRIVE and for supporting the business needs of employers in Connecticut.