

Pastor Brigitte P. Brown, MSW
15 Marmon Street
New Britain, CT 06053

March 2, 2015

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Proposed funding cuts to vital family, school and community supports

Dear Appropriations Committee and New Britain State Delegation,

My name is Pastor Brigitte Brown, and I reside at 15 Marmon Street New Britain, CT 06053. I am a mother of 5 children and a wife, Pastor; Social Worker; New Britain Police Commissioner; Community Organizer; member of the School Governance Council of New Britain High School and a member of the North-Oak Neighborhood Revitalization Zone. Right Now Ministries, Inc. has collaborated with the Consolidated School District of New Britain, and we facilitate an after school program at Pulaski Middle School. As you can see, I am very involved in my New Britain community and the surrounding cities.

The purpose of this letter is to restore the cuts made in the budget in the Raised HB. No. 6824 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE. This budget affects the Community Plans for Early Childhood and after school programs in New Britain. I would add that you please consider increasing the amount, that has been cut from the budget. Our New Britain community has been struggling, but has been working hard to make progress within our city residents, and the various supports that we all provide. The rate of **chronically absent** for elementary school students dropped from 19.5% in 2012 to 13.0% in 2013. And the 2013 rate is less than half the 2010 rate of 29%. All this efforts have been made, due to the funding that have been provided to our community.

The district has uniquely partnered with other community members in the community, for more support to offset some of the deficit that exists. Right Now Ministries, Inc is also a member of the The Coalition for New Britain's Youth, which is a citywide group of community stakeholders committed to improving the lives of New Britain's youth.

Please consider ALL of our New Britain children and restore ALL the funding back into this budget for our city. Please support by not only restoring this bill, but consider increasing the funding for New Britain. Me and all of New Britain appreciate all your support. Thank you for your time and considering my request. I can be directly reached at 860-770-2495 or rhabri@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

Pastor Brigitte P. Brown, MSW