

I am a new parent and a student at the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) which is funded by the Parent Trust Fund (the PTF). Thus, I and my husband and son are three more to add to the 1100 people affected by funds made half-way available through state contributions to the PTF. I say “half-way” because, as you know, the Trust is the first program in Connecticut that matches the state contribution to leverage its overall funding.

The PLTI program is important to me and my family. It helps train me and others like me to be an activist for the health, safety, and learning outcome for all children in my area. This type of training, made available by the funding of the PTF, has a ripple effect of good for my entire community and I see how it can improve the quality of life for everyone involved.

Thus, I strongly disagree with the proposed budget cut that would de-fund the PTF. Not only does it harm my interests, but those of the entire community. I realize money is tight—when is it not?—but this is the wrong place to cut funds. And, because of the unique matching contributions of the PTF, it is perhaps the least efficient place to cut. I ask that you keep the current funding for the Parent Trust Fund in place.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Ponder