

***Testimony for March 3, 5pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee***

*Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and members of the Secondary Education Sub-committee:*

*My name is Bill Sudol and I currently serve as the Vice President of the Board of Directors of the AHM Family and Youth Services, Inc. and I am a resident of Hebron CT.*

*I am writing to you as members of the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-Committee to voice my opposition as a Connecticut taxpayer and concerned citizen to the proposed cuts included in the Governor's budget regarding Connecticut's 102 Youth Service Bureaus.*

*Although these are difficult fiscal times, I ask that you please do all that you can to remove the \$1.3 million dollar cut to YSBs from the Governor's proposal, (which includes the entire Enhancement Grant Line Item currently in the budget at \$620,000 and an approximately \$700,000 cut in the Cost Sharing grant that YSBs receive for being a Youth Service Bureau.*

*The State of Connecticut invests just over 3 million dollars in 102 Youth Services Bureaus statewide. In return those Youth Service Bureaus collectively raise nearly 30 million dollars through the municipalities they serve, through private and public grants, fundraisers and private contributions.*

*In the last two years YSBs reported having served over 448,000 youth and parents through many of the same programs that our own local youth services (AHM Youth and Family Services) provides to local citizens in our four communities. These programs all fall into the categories of mental health services, juvenile justice services, prevention programs, youth and family development programs.*

*I would hope that you will do all you can to insure that these cuts are not enacted and that the Enhancement and Cost sharing grants are fully restored in the adopted budget.*

*Sincerely,*

*William (Bill) J. Sudol  
Vice President, AHM Board of Directors  
AHM Family and Youth Services, Inc.*

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