

**“TESTIMONY for March 3rd, 5P.M. for the
Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-Committee”**

**Submitted By:
BLOOMFIELD POLICE AND YOUTH
COMMUNITY CRUSADERS**



February 25th, 2015

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and Members of the Secondary Education Sub-Committee:

As members of the BLOOMFIELD POLICE and YOUTH COMMUNITY CRUSADERS we are opposed to the proposed 1.3 million dollar budget cut to Youth Service Bureaus 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 YSB. We oppose the proposed move of the YSB system from SDE to the Department of Children and Families. The move would compromise if not dismantle the data system that uses school outcomes as a measure of success for the youth served by YSBs. The system has been in place for years and significant financial resources and people hours have been invested in the Results Based Accountability Framework.

The Bloomfield Police & Youth Community Crusaders program is a collaborative project between Social and Youth Services and the Bloomfield Police Department. Fifteen youth members and 4-6 officers meet 12 times per year. The Crusaders program has served the Bloomfield community for 3 years. We are dedicated and committed to being pro-active in Bloomfield by; participating in community service opportunities that benefit the Town of Bloomfield, building positive relationships between youth and the Bloomfield Police Department, and by participating in services and programs that teach us teambuilding and leadership skills. We proudly serve our community. We use the skills learned in our group activities to build positive relationships with one another, the community and the men and women of law enforcement. We feel that the police departments across the state contribute significantly to our communities and we want to be involved in activities that improve and strengthen the relationships between the youth, police officers and the community. We need your support to continue what we do in Bloomfield.

We, as members of the Bloomfield Police & Youth Community Crusaders hope that you come to a greater understanding of how important this program, as well as others offered by Youth Services, are to every youth and family in Bloomfield. We ask that you re-evaluate the proposed budget and restore the Enhancement and Cost Sharing Grants in the State Department of Education budget. We need your continued support!

Thank you from all of us in the
Bloomfield Police & Youth Community Crusaders.



BLOOMFIELD POLICE & YOUTH COMMUNITY CRUSADERS

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<u>Laurence A</u> Signature	<u>Peanna Lawrence</u> Printed Name	<u>6 Jackson Rd</u> Address
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BLOOMFIELD POLICE & YOUTH COMMUNITY CRUSADERS


Signature

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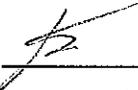
HENRY RODRIGUEZ
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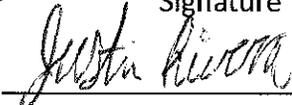
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