

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

Submitted By: BLOOMFIELD YOUTH ACTION CLUB

February 26th, 2015

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

As members of the **BLOOMFIELD YOUTH ACTION CLUB**, 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 Youth Action Club is comprised of 14 members. The club is a valued leadership group that has served the Bloomfield community for 15 years. We are dedicated and committed to being pro-active in Bloomfield by; speaking up and representing the needs and ideas of youth, participating in services and programs that teach us teambuilding and leadership skills, fundraising for youth and family programs, advising on programs and services offered to youth, and planning and organizing programs and activities that support all youth in Bloomfield. Each member of our club volunteers 150-200 hours per year at these activities. We proudly serve our community. We use the skills learned in our club activities to prepare for college and life after high school, improve our relationships with one another and with adults, and to be more involved in our families, schools and community. The activities offered by the Youth Action Club also help us to support youth in the community that are experiencing challenges and difficulties in everyday life. We feel youth across the state contribute significantly to our communities and we want to be involved in activities that improve life for everyone in our communities. We need your support to continue what we do in Bloomfield.

We, as members of the Bloomfield Youth Action Club 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 Youth Action Club.



BLOOMFIELD YOUTH ACTION CLUB

<u>Wallace</u> Signature	<u>Cheyenne Wallace</u> Printed Name	<u>319 Tunxis Ave, Blmfd, CT</u> Address
<u>Gomes</u> Signature	<u>Christopher Gomes</u> Printed Name	<u>5 Jay Bee Dr.</u> Address
<u>Donald Crosby</u> Signature	<u>Donald Crosby</u> Printed Name	<u>46 Alexander Rd.</u> Address
<u>Alexander Nolan</u> Signature	<u>Alexander Nolan</u> Printed Name	<u>157 Duncaster Rd.</u> Address
<u>Kimoya Wallace</u> Signature	<u>Kimoya Wallace</u> Printed Name	<u>276 Rockwell Ave</u> Address
<u>Arianna B-T</u> Signature	<u>Arianna B-T</u> Printed Name	<u>11 Sutton Pl</u> Address
<u>Zachary Haughton</u> Signature	<u>Zachary Haughton</u> Printed Name	<u>65 Elizabeth Ave</u> Address
<u>Josiah Gardner</u> Signature	<u>Josiah Gardner</u> Printed Name	<u>5 Linwood Drive</u> Address
<u>Emanuel Castillo</u> Signature	<u>Emanuel Castillo</u> Printed Name	<u>12 Hampton Lane</u> Address
<u>DeAndre Hannah</u> Signature	<u>DeAndre Hannah</u> Printed Name	<u>21 Daniel Blvd</u> Address
<u>Chaniel Cathey</u> Signature	<u>Chaniel Cathey</u> Printed Name	<u>11 Ewan Lane</u> Address
<u>Tajamya Woodard</u> Signature	<u>Tajamya Woodard</u> Printed Name	<u>47 Kenwood Circle</u> Address
<u>Taeha Woodard</u> Signature	<u>Taeha Woodard</u> Printed Name	<u>47 Kenwood Circle</u> Address
<u>Emily Guerrero</u> Signature	<u>Emily Guerrero</u> Printed Name	<u>117 Cottage Grove Cir</u> Address