

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

This serves as my testimony for March 3, 5pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee:

I ask that you not support the governor's diminishing of funding for Youth Services Bureaus (YSBs) and Regional Action Councils (RACs) in Connecticut. YSB's are the foundation of an effective and efficient MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH infrastructure for our state. The recently released draft of the Sandy Hook report stresses that we need increased mental health services, not fewer. YSB respond to a multitude of needs of children and families in CT, as well as provide prevention services for substance abuse, suicide and teen pregnancy alongside their partners, the RAC's. Eliminating state level support for these bureaus that already operate on tiny amounts of money would cripple them. **DO NOT CUT YOUTH SERVICES AND REGIONAL ACTION COUNCIL SUPPORT FUNDING.** Thank you for considering my plea **for the March 3, 5pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee.**

Kelley Edwards

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