

From: Diane Neri
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 1:30 PM
To: 'apptestimony@cga.ct.gov'

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

My name is Diane Neri and I am a resident of Clinton. This is my testimony for March 3, 5pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee.

I am writing to request that you strongly oppose the Governor's proposed 1.35 million dollars cut to our Youth Service Bureaus (YSB).

Such cuts will severely cripple many Connecticut YSBs which have already been flat-funded for years. Our local YSB serves and acts as a primary and critical first line of defense for many of our at risk youth and families who are experiencing difficulties whether it be substance abuse, delinquency, divorce, and school performance, not to mention the array of positive youth development activities they provide such as youth employment, summer programs, and after school programming. Youth Service Bureaus respond to the local needs of the communities, developing local networks of care and partnering with many other agencies in efforts to be integrated, primary prevention and intervention services to many different youth populations. I urge you to fully fund our Youth Service Bureaus and restore any of the proposed cuts!

Respectfully,
Diane Neri
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