

**Testimony of Joel Dawson Founder and Chairperson of Fathers' Forum Greenwich  
concerning funding for Regional Action Councils in**

H.B. No. 6824 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING  
JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER  
PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE.

*Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services - March 6, 2015*

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Gerratana, Representative Dillon and members of the Appropriations subcommittee, my name is Joel Dawson. I am offering testimony in strong opposition to the proposed cuts to the regional action councils.

In my community of Greenwich CT, the Communities 4 Action, (LFCRAC) lead by Ingrid Gillespie has been a intricate part of and fully supportive of our Fathers' Forum Committee of Greenwich Connecticut. Fathers' Forum has been in existence for 11 years now and the informational support, communication and partnership has been constant.

On behalf of LFCRAC, Ingrid has spoken at Fathers' Forum, bringing to the fathers of Greenwich, substance abuse awareness, education and prevention initiatives and more.

FATHERS' FORUM PURPOSE: Provide Greenwich dads with information and skills to help them maek the best, most enlightened choices in developing relationships with their children for the purpose of protecting the children from high-risk behavior.

Without partners like Ingrid and the Communities 4 Action Group, we would not be able to cary on our mission.

Thank you.

Joel Dawson