

**Testimony of Barbara Lockhart, Director of Montville Youth Service  
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 Barbara Lockhart.

As the Local Prevention Council Coordinator for the Town of Montville I am both concerned and disheartened about the proposed drastic budget cuts to Regional Action Councils, more specifically the Southeastern Regional Action Council, which serves the twenty towns in the Southeastern CT region. The prevention funding cuts outlined in Governor Malloy's proposed budget would reduce the overall budget of the RAC's by \$775,000. This cut will significantly impact the resources, technical assistance, as well as programs and services RACs provide to our community (ies).

Similar to SERAC's membership, our Local Prevention Council (LPC) is a community based partnership consisting of state/town law enforcement, schools, religious leaders, youth serving organizations, social services, local businesses, healthcare providers, other community based organizations, youth, and local residents.

Since 1989 our LPC has been addressing local concerns, prevention, education, and advocacy in the areas of: substance use/abuse prevention, suicide prevention, and gambling awareness. We feel that prevention is the most effective way to improving the quality of life for all our community members. In fact for every \$1 spent in prevention, society saves \$10 in intervention and treatment costs.

The support provided by our Regional Action Council (SERAC) is critical to the success of our Local Prevention Council. For approximately the past 15 years, we have worked in collaboration with SERAC on a variety of prevention initiatives at both the town and regional level. They are also able to share with us both the federal and state initiatives. Much of the work that we do with SERAC is within the Results Based Accountability Framework (RBA) which supports evidence based programs and services.

Some of the collaborations of which we are most proud include the following:

- **Youth Programs (Youth Forum, ALLI, Educational Series, STEP)**
- **Parent education (Parent Training, forums)**
- **Community Wide Campaigns (billboards, posters)**
- **Rx Disposal Box/Take backs**
- **Teacher/Staff Training**
- **Train the trainer programs**
- **Suicide Prevention Mental Health First Aid & Question, Persuade & Refer (QPR)**

I believe it would be in the best interest of all Connecticut's residents, to fully restore the funding for Regional Action Councils. For a small monetary investment the return in programs and services in our communities is ten-fold. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Lockhart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Barbara A. Lockhart, MS  
Director of Youth Services  
Town of Montville