

February 9, 2016

Appropriations Committee Testimony
Legislative Office Building Room 2702
Hartford CT 06106-1591

To whom it may concern,

My name is Donald Bishop. I have been attending the fatherhood support group in Norwich called "24/7 Dad" since July 28, 2014. Since then I have attended this program faithfully, this program has not only been my savior but an outlet for whatever questions or problems I could possibly need help with and I have never been turned away. Whenever I meet new dads in my travels I always refer them to the group because it is an excellent resource for fathers. The staff with Madonna Place is full of knowledge that they are so willing to share with whoever may need the help. I also have to say the reason why you guys should not cut the funds of the fatherhood initiative because it helps other dads to become a better father to their kids and like fathers that are incarcerated and don't know how to become a dad. With that all being said, this is by far one of the greatest programs that I have ever found. I honestly feel that if Fatherhood Programs were to lose their funding that it would be a critical blow to fathers thru out our state and I have yet to find any other father based programs anywhere. So please find it in our state's best interest to keep this great program up and running.

Thank You

Donald Bishop