



30 Jordan Lane  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
(860) 523-8042  
[PreventionWorksCT.org](http://PreventionWorksCT.org)

**Testimony for Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Health On the DMHAS Budget  
H.B., 5044**

**An act making adjustments to state expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.**

**By Hannah Granfield Program Manager, Training and Technical Assistance**

**The Governor's Prevention Partnership**

**February 18, 2016**

Good afternoon, Senator Looney, Senator Duff, Representative Sharkey, Representative Aresimowicz, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Hannah Granfield, Program Manager of Training and Technical Assistance at the Governor's Prevention Partnership, a resident of Wethersfield Connecticut and a mom of two young sons.

On behalf of The Governor's Prevention Partnership, I am pleased and humbled to submit this testimony in support of resources for youth mentoring--a proven prevention and intervention strategy to help young people navigate from cradle to career. I am pleased to speak raise my voice in support of prevention through mentoring and the benefits that youth receive from this prevention strategy.

January 2016 was National Mentoring Month and more than 21,000 youth are currently being mentored but there are more than 2, 000 kids on wait lists across Connecticut. What does this mean? It means that a youth goes home to an empty home after school, it means that there might not be a support network adults who check in with a youth, and it means that that the youth is not connected. In 2016, we hope that the state of Connecticut would be supporting anything that can provide a support system to the youth as they are our future workforce.

The Governor's Prevention Partnership has served kids in Connecticut for the past 26 years with prevention programs that focus on mentoring, substance abuse, and bullying and violence prevention. We are the state's leading advocate and resource for youth mentoring programs, delivering the research, policy recommendations, advocacy and practical data collection tools that facilitate the expansion of mentoring initiatives.

The Partnership works deep in communities throughout CT to serve more than 150 mentoring programs, connecting young people who want and need caring adults in their lives. The goal: to help them realize the true power of mentoring. The Partnership has built a sustainable infrastructure that enables mentoring programs to flourish, all while leveraging resources to provide tools that local programs need to operate high-quality mentoring in three arenas: schools, communities and the juvenile justice system. We build greater awareness of the need for mentors, and raise the profile of mentoring among corporate leaders, foundation executives, policymakers and researchers.



30 Jordan Lane  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
(860) 523-8042  
[PreventionWorksCT.org](http://PreventionWorksCT.org)

During my time at The Partnership I have had the opportunity to hear firsthand from youth, families and schools who are currently involved in the juvenile justice system who are now connected to a mentor. They have shared:

- *My probation ended 8 months ago and my mentor is still involved with my life. I am so thankful for everything he does.*
- *A mother shared: "Maggie gives my daughter a perspective on life that is nurturing and supportive. Making and maintaining the relationship takes work on both sides and the trust earned is invaluable when so much else in life is not inconsistent or unpredictable. Maggie's temporary time with my daughter is a permanent source of confidence and independence for her.*
- *And a school administrators shared: Since he has been involved with your mentoring program he is on time for school and completes his assignments. He has turned around his demeanor in the classroom and now participates. Thank you for mentoring him.*

Like any youth-development strategy, mentoring works best when measures are taken to ensure quality and effectiveness. Money, personnel and resources are required to initiate and support quality mentoring relationships. Programs across the state of Connecticut spend around \$1, 500 to \$2, and 500 per youth per match to adhere to a quality mentoring standards. They can't do this alone with the support of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. Think about the youth who are on wait lists or have yet to be identified as needing a mentor in their life. As a mom of two young sons and active in my own local community, I am hopeful that my boys and their friends will continue to have the opportunity to be connected to caring adults. I encourage you to continue this investing in the young people and in Connecticut's future workforce.

Thank you so much for you time and consideration.

Hannah Granfield

Program Manager, Training and Technical Assistance

860.523.8042 x 27

[Hannah.granfield@preventionworksct.org](mailto:Hannah.granfield@preventionworksct.org)

30 Jordan Lane, Wethersfield, CT 06109

[www.preventionworksct.org](http://www.preventionworksct.org)