

**TESTIMONY OF  
MAUREEN PRICE-BORELAND,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN ACTION  
FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

**Appropriations Committee Public Hearing on H.B. 5044 AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE  
EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017 –  
Judicial Department & Department of Correction Budgets**

My name is Maureen Price-Boreland, I am the Executive Director for Community Partners in Action, a 140 year old organization that provides a myriad of community justice statewide services with facilities located in Hartford, Manchester, Waterbury and Hamden.

I realize that the state is in the midst of significant financial challenges and that very tough decisions need to be made. I would urge that those decisions give consideration to long term unintended consequences. Consequences that would shift resources from Connecticut's nationally recognized trend of a more effective focus on appropriate alternatives back to a system heavily reliant on incarceration

CPA has been a longstanding partner with both the Judicial Branch and Department of Correction, providing both nonresidential and residential services for Adults and Youth ranging from pre- release, probation, bail, parole, Family Services and re-entry. CPA has operated Alternative in the Community (AIC) programs since both the Judicial Branch and Department of Correction first contracted with community agencies. Those partnerships have allowed for a highly professional and successful network of services that have **reduced offender recidivism**.

The provision of Alternative services to the citizens of Connecticut has been a **cost effective** way of addressing behaviors that are deemed a crime however are better managed in the community versus through the very costly system of incarceration.

A budget cut of this magnitude is inconsistent with the laudable efforts of the Second Chance efforts in Connecticut for both the Adult and Juvenile population. This would result in the elimination of much needed, evidenced based residential and non-residential programs thus leading to an increase in the more expensive option of incarceration. The pre-trial population will increase and the overall progress that Connecticut has made in criminal justice will be significantly eroded.

**A summary of the potential impact includes:**

- The unprecedented outcomes presently realized by the AIC's in CT, relative to recidivism reduction, will be compromised. These best practice models are supported by CT's Results First initiative and national literature.

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- Closure of adult and juvenile residential programs would result in more pre-trial clients detained by DOC or in the Judicial Branch's detention centers.
- At-risk youth and young adults would have fewer therapeutic residential options.
- Program cuts will result in massive reduction in services and layoffs in the community provider/Nonprofit sector.

Unfortunately, in tough times, we sometimes lose site of the bigger picture. I urge thoughtful consideration of the major strategic implications and ramifications of these decisions.

Thank You for your time.