



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE PAM STANESKI**  
ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
Pam.Staneski@housegop.ct.gov

**MEMBER**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

*Testimony in Support of*  
**SB353: An Act Concerning Opioid Abuse**  
*Public Health Committee*  
*March 7, 2016*

Good day Chairman Ritter, Chairman Gerratana, Ranking Members Representative Srinivasan, Senator Markley, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I want thank this committee for raising **SB353: AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE**.

I want to thank the Committee for its work on this bill and in particular for expanding membership on the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council. I am the co-founder of the Milford Prevention Council and I have dedicated the past ten years to addressing substance use and abuse among young people in my community. A resource and partner in that work has been our local **Regional Action Council—VSCACC** (one of 13 RACs). The thirteen RACs make up the membership of the **Connecticut Prevention Network**. The knowledge that this group has is paramount to the work that the Connecticut Drug and Policy Council is charged with and I would ask that they be considered for membership to the Drug Policy Council.

It is a move in the right direction to include various members, especially local experts who are in the field and can provide detailed information specific to Connecticut. The **Connecticut Prevention Network (comprised of the 13 Regional Action Councils mentioned above)** is a strategic partner in substance abuse prevention with local and regional organizations around the state. They have helped to train over 500 people in the use of narecan, held over 20 community forums on opioid abuse and misuse, partnered with local prevention councils to promote *Drug Take Back Day* (as well as permanent drop boxes), raised awareness of substance abuse in many of our classrooms, and been a resource to the communities they serve.

**BUT—THEY HAVE HAD 80% OF THEIR FUNDING REMOVED IN THIS CURRENT BUDGET PROPOSAL!**

We have an opioid epidemic in this state—we need to address it. However, not including the **RACs**, who work at a grassroots level on this and a myriad of substance issues, and removal of their funding, is counter-productive to the goal stated in the language of this bill. They are an important part of this endeavor.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of SB353 with the requested amendments. I look forward to working with this committee on this and other matters.

Respectfully,

Pam Staneski