



Testimony for Appropriations Committee Health Subcommittee

**Public Hearing re: HB 5005, AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

Haddiyah Ali

**The Governor's Partnership to Protect Connecticut's Workforce
DBA The Governor's Prevention Partnership
February 21, 2020**

Good evening esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee, My name is Haddiyah Ali and I am here today in support of maximum funding for The Governor's Prevention Partnership. I live in Bloomfield in Representative Gibson's district.

Last year, I testified about the impact I had on sixth graders at Fred D. Wish Museum school as a mentor in The Partnership's EdCorpsCT program designed to reduce chronic absenteeism. Today, I return as the Program Coordinator of Resource Development and External Affairs.

My time at The Partnership has been rewarding in more ways than I could imagine. I have had the privilege of working for an organization that invests in my future as a young person in Connecticut. During my service as a mentor, we received weekly trainings designed to help us build skills for the workforce including resume building with the Urban League, becoming certified trainers for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and learning about the ways that our many different identities shape our experiences in the world.

Since completing service and returning to The Partnership in a different capacity, my mentors in the office have continued to help me build new skills, take on challenging tasks, and showcase my work. On any given day, I can expand my portfolio as a writer through blog posts, speeches, or mass communication; expand my professional network of leaders dedicated to youth development; or develop technical skills through training and practice.

Most of all, I am blessed with an environment that listens to the voices of young people like myself and helps takes our ideas to the next level. When I decided I wanted to lead the Black History Month programming at our school last year, The Partnership was there with resources, open ears, and full support. When I wanted to take on a role beyond mentoring, I was given the opportunity to network and share my story with state leaders on prevention, healthcare, philanthropy, and youth development at the Governor's Residence Reception. I was also able to help organize a job shadow day at UnitedHealth where over one hundred students gained valuable insight on the professional job market and day to day operations.



The Partnership has taught me that prevention requires a profound investment in the value and lives of youth and their families and communities. It has given me the opportunity to work from a renewed perspective of investment and placed me as a helping hand on the path to success for some of the lives touched by the work that we do.

It was my time spent as an in house mentor that helped me decide that I wanted to attend law school and pursue a future in policy where I can continue to be of service to the communities that need it most. It was through profound discussions led by our organization and its partners that provided me with the necessary lens to understand how policies that lend themselves to prevention work are essential to youth development.

As a current law student and aspiring policy maker, these experiences will never leave me. They guide my work and remind me that one of the most important tenets of public service is humanity. I am incredibly thankful to The Governor's Prevention Partnership for their vision and dedication to my personal growth and workforce development. I hope that you all will continue your support of me and thousands of Connecticut's youth through your investment in The Partnership.

