

**Testimony for Appropriations Committee
Health Subcommittee**

**Public Hearing re: H.B. No. 6439 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING
THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE
THIRTIETH, 2023**

**Daniel Reilly
Torrington, CT
March 2, 2021**

My name is Mr. Daniel B. Reilly. I am a concerned citizen, a single father of 4 children, a Veteran, and an active participant in the prevention field for more than a decade. I am writing this testimony to ask for funding for The Governor's Prevention Partnership through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The Governor's Prevention Partnership maintains a vision to see young people across the state of Connecticut thriving in their families, schools, communities, and personal lives as a result of prevention strategies, interventions, and public policies that reduce risks and promote positive outcomes. I have witnessed their efforts and results firsthand and watched as this organization has unified community-based organizations to assist in accomplishing their missions. By bringing together all community sectors to plan and implement a data-driven, comprehensive approach, The Governor's Prevention Partnership's programs have proven to be a highly effective use of scarce resources.

Additional funding would produce significant reductions in youth substance use rates in underserved communities that desperately need community coalition infrastructure to comprehensively address their local substance use crises, with a very minimal investment of additional scarce

state resources. Despite the effectiveness of substance use and misuse prevention, it has been underutilized and under-resourced relative to its ability to help decrease addiction and overdose rates. Overall funding for substance use prevention has fallen by 33.7% since 2009. As Connecticut and the nation deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and the opioid, stimulant, and youth vaping epidemics, increased funding for The Governor's Prevention Partnership should be a top appropriations priority.

I want to thank you for your support regarding this issue. I hope that you will choose to continue funding and supporting The Governor's Prevention Partnership which equips, empowers, and connects organizations, communities, and families to prevent substance abuse, underage drinking, and violence among youth and promotes positive outcomes for all young people in Connecticut.