



# #CallToAction

## #JuvenileJustice

Tell CT Legislators You SUPPORT this measure  
All Materials and Resources Courtesy of CT Juvenile Justice Alliance, CT Youth Services Association & ATCT

### What:

- Support House Bill 6516 to fund the Community-Based Diversion System Plan, a key element of this year's recommendations from the Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee (JJPOC)
- **Funding for the Community-Based Diversion System Plan must be reinforced in testimony. Emphasize that funds need to be allocated based on the adopted plan. It is critical to stress that this system cannot be implemented using existing resources – and that funding needs to be given to the YSB system as the coordinating hub, as written in the plan and supported by the JJPOC. Funds should be reinvested from the back-end of the system to the front-end.**
- The plan focuses on identifying and addressing the underlying needs/symptoms of a child's negative behavior and putting early intervention supports in place. It ensures screening and service matching to the individual needs and has been proven to ensure long-term behavior changes, which in turn reduces future involvement in the juvenile justice system.
- The plan identifies the Youth Service Bureau System (YSB) to act as a coordinating hub for services to deliver prevention, intervention, treatment and follow-up services for children ages 0-18 or who are still in school (this was recommended because the YSB has already been successfully working in communities across CT for 45 years).
- The plan uses existing mechanisms to connect children, families and schools with resources in their own communities, diverting them away from the care of state agencies (like the Judicial Branch or DCF) and enhancing existing community services that may be underfunded or undersupported.
- What are the benefits of creating a Diversion System with a Coordinating Hub? The benefits of a fully implemented Community-Based Diversion System include: 1) decreased referrals to Juvenile Court; 2) increased participation in appropriate services and programs; 3) increased family

engagement; 4) decreased rates of recidivism; 5) reduction in the stigma/labeling associated with formal juvenile justice system involvement and; 6) reduction in costs of associated with crime and incarceration.

- More info on talking points available: click [here](#)
- <http://youth.gov/youth-topics/juvenile-justice/prevention-and-early-intervention>
- [https://www.macfound.org/programs/juvenile\\_justice/strategy/](https://www.macfound.org/programs/juvenile_justice/strategy/)

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**When:**

- Written & Phone Campaign: 3/31/17 - 4/1/17
- In Person Testimony: 4/3/2017 at 12 PM, Room 2E of the LOB

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**How: Any or all of the below are an option.** *Contact Kate Conetta for support and guidance on written testimony and Theda Lambert for in-person testimony. You can message them on FB or email [kate.conetta@gmail.com](mailto:kate.conetta@gmail.com).*

- Submit written testimony to [APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov) (examples on next page)
- Deliver your testimony in person on Monday 4/3 in the Hartford Legislative Office Building (see <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp> or contact Theda Lambert)
- Call & email committee members to voice your support <https://www.cga.ct.gov/app>

**Sample Phone Script:** Hello, this is [YOUR NAME] and I live in [YOUR TOWN/CITY], Connecticut. I'm calling in support of House Bill #6516, An Act Concerning the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee. Please move forward in favor of supporting the Community-Based Diversion System Plan that was adopted and recommended by the Juvenile Justice and Policy Oversight Committee and please allot the requested funding for the Youth Service Bureau System which is needed to implement it properly. Additionally I urge you to support reinvestment of funds from the back-end to the front-end to guarantee the success of this program. I feel it is incredibly important that the youth in our communities are receiving the kind of preventative care and treatment for their problems early on in life. **[Insert personal or local incident if you have one.]** Ensuring that our community programs are properly supported and funded has proven to reduce problems down the road. I hope the committee will do everything in its power to ensure this legislation is passed. Thank you.

**General Guidelines for Testimony to be submitted to Legislative Committees**

**The CT General Assembly website has a helpful video and write up on delivering testimony**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/citizen.asp> & <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/YourVoice.asp>

**Guidelines for Written Testimony:** Email your one-page testimony as a word doc or PDF attachment to [judtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:judgetestimony@cga.ct.gov). Be sure to include your full name and address. Testimony received before the public hearing will be reviewed by the committee. Testimony can be submitted after the hearing and will be part of the public record, and may be reviewed at a later time in the bill's consideration. If your representative is on the committee, copy him/her on your email to the committee, or send it to him/her separately with a note that you wish for them to support this bill.

**Guidelines for Oral Testimony:** Remarks should be similar to what is written, but must not take longer than 3 minutes to read.

**Example Written Testimony:**

Date

Your Name & Address

Testimony in **support** of

- Proposed Bill 6516 An Act Concerning the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee

Dear Senator Formica, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is [your name], and I am from [your town], CT. [If applicable, indicate any organization or affiliation you have here.] I am writing to **support** House Bill 6516, An Act Concerning the Juvenile Justice Policy & Oversight Committee.

[Paragraph on why you support proper funding for the Community-Based Diversion System Plan, referencing any personal experience you have had with the Youth Service Bureau System or similar program, a relevant anecdote you may know, statistical support from a reliable source, as well as articulating a main argument from above.]

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely, [Name] [Address]