



**Asia Goubourn M.Ed**  
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**Republican Public Hearing on Revenue Package**  
**Monday, May 11, 2015 1:30pm**  
**Room 1E of the LOB**

I want to start by thanking the Democratic and Republican leaders of the General Assembly for all they do.

My name is Asia Goubourn and I am the director of the Teen Outreach Program at Family Centered Services of CT. In collaboration with the Department of Social Services Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, my particular program services 200 of the 800 students serviced state wide. We facilitate an evidence based curriculum in 4 public schools in the greater New Haven and Bridgeport areas.

Our teens formally meet 2-3 times with their facilitators from September - June during the school day for curriculum guided discussions about youth development, community involvement, service learning, and most importantly, pregnancy prevention.

We currently are spending approximately \$2400 per student per school year. Our research shows that by the age of 30, the state will have paid approximately \$10,500 for services such as public assistance, criminal justice, and public health among children born to teen parents. As you can see the preventative measure is far less expensive.

I am here to SUPPORT the raising of additional revenue to help maintain Connecticut's social safety net.

I've recently read, in a separate spending proposal, that the Appropriations Committee and the Republican leadership heard those concerns, and recognized that without adequate funding, thousands of individuals, families, and youth would be at risk. That is why I'm here. I believe spending plans need revenue to fund them. Increasing taxes is a tough choice, but without additional revenues, the programs that both Democrats and Republicans support cannot be sustained.

My program is needed!! I support the revenue increases necessary to accomplish that.

*Asia Goubourn M.Ed.*



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