

OYI Sample Testimony for Organizations

- Please use this as a starting point for your written or live testimony
- Edit the content in **RED** and submit (Will add once the hearing is posted)
- Questions? Ideas? Contact Daniel@CTUnitedWay.org or 860-249-8788

What is the Opportunity Youth Initiative?

- Get the details [here](#).

Education Committee

Public Hearing: March 19, 2025

In Support of **S.B. 1: An Act Increasing Resources For Students, Schools and Special Education** and **S.B. 1511: An Act Concerning Disconnected Youth**

Dear Co-Chair Senator McCrory, Co-Chair Representative Leeper, Vice Chair Senator Winfield, Vice Chair Representative Brown, Ranking Member Senator Berthel, Ranking Member Representative Zupkus, and members of the Education Committee:

I am testifying in support of S.B. 1 and S.B. 1511 on behalf of **ORGANIZATION** and our mission to **ADD SHORT VERSION OF MISSION/VISION/VALUES**.

Every young person in Connecticut deserves the freedom to pursue their dreams and build a secure future. Yet, more than 100,000 young people between the ages of 14 and 26 are struggling to stay on track due to barriers at home, school, and work. Our organization is committed to stepping in and providing the support they need to reconnect and thrive.

ADD DATA + STORY FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION

Youth disconnection is a crisis we know how to solve. Our organization is part of the Opportunity Youth Initiative at the Campaign for Working Connecticut. Both of these bills align with our policy agenda.

- **S.B. 1 - Section 18:** Reducing chronic absenteeism is essential to keeping young people on track to finish school. **SHARE A SHORT STORY or DATA ABOUT HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION HELPS REDUCE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**

- **S.B. 1 - Section 21:** Embedding student success coaches in public schools is a proven, evidence-based strategy. **SHARE A STORY or DATA ABOUT HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION USES STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAMS**
- **S.B. 1511 - Section 3:** Safely and securely sharing data allows us to collaborate and better serve our youth. **SHARE EXAMPLES OF HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION LEVERAGES DATA TODAY**
- **S.B. 1511 - Section 4:** Including organizations like ours on the youth success oversight boards ensures those closest to the issue are part of the solution. **SHARE EXAMPLES OF HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION ENGAGES IN LOCAL OR REGIONAL COORDINATION EFFORTS TODAY**
- **S.B. 1511 - Section 6:** Many young people are ready to re-connect with school and work, only to discover that the programs in their communities have long wait lists. Allocating funding based on youth disconnection rates will begin to reduce these waitlists and expand access to proven workforce programs. **SHARE A STORY or DATA ABOUT YOUR WAIT LIST OR WORKFORCE PROGRAM**

The rising crisis of youth disconnection demands bold action. Our coalition, alongside partners like Dalio Education and the CT Conference of Municipalities, has worked tirelessly to shine a light on this issue. But to truly end this crisis, we need policies that prioritize young people's success and self-sufficiency.

Supporting these bills is a critical step forward in ensuring every young person in Connecticut has the freedom to build a stable and fulfilling future.

Thank you,

NAME

CITY/TOWN

TITLE (if applicable)

EMAIL (optional)

PHONE (optional)