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OPP Youth Tell Legislature Not to Cut Funding for Summer Jobs

Youth Testify Before the Appropriations Committee on Proposed \$3.5-million Cut

Hartford, CT....Losing \$3.5-million in state funding for summer youth employment would be devastating to hundreds of urban youth, according to OPP members who spoke before the State Legislature's Appropriations Committee on February 17.

The funding, which helps agencies like OPP provide employment and workforce readiness to young people during the summer months, would be cut under Governor M. Jodi Rell's proposed budget.

Alberto Rosado, a University of Connecticut sophomore, currently works at TJ Maxx thanks to the summer program. He says the funding is vital.

"We need this program now more than ever," Alberto told the committee. "It is a Pathway to many open doors for youth of all backgrounds."

Deedra Willingham, a junior at Bloomfield High School worked in the Actuarial Science and Retirement office at Hooker and Holcombe in West Hartford thanks to the Summer Employment Program.



"OPP and Summer Youth Employment have motivated me," Deedra said. "Let funding remain so it can motivate even more young people."

More than 7,000 youth statewide benefit from the Summer Youth Employment program.

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