

Good afternoon. My name is Amy Beyer. I am from Naugatuck and a junior in the Agri Science program at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury, which is my magnet school of choice. I decided to apply to Nonnewaug because of my interest in conservation and my love of the outdoors. My experiences in the program have been phenomenal and I would like to tell you about my most recent endeavor.

This past October, I was one member of Nonnewaug's Agricultural Communications team competing at the National FFA Convention, in Indianapolis, Indiana. After months of preparation and 2 days of competition our team placed 4th in the Country. As if that wasn't exciting enough, when the top ten individuals were announced I was declared 2nd in the Nation. This honor included the gold medal I am proudly wearing and a \$900 college scholarship. But the rewards didn't stop there. Because of my placement, I am now being pursued by the University of Arkansas. A professor from the university was in charge of the competition and has been in contact with me about my future plans and feels I have a high probability of receiving significant scholarships because of my aptitude in agriculture. In fact, I will be traveling to Arkansas over my April vacation to see the university. Since I plan to major in Agricultural Communications and Education, the University of Arkansas is very appealing. None of these opportunities would have been possible if I had attended my local public high school.

The agri science program has provided me with life skills like leadership, teamwork, and public speaking. These skills prepared me to hold my current position of FFA Chapter President, which I was elected to at the end of last year by 300 of my peers. The average high school student can only dream of the opportunities and experiences this

program has given me. I am surrounded by positive, challenging teachers who truly want to see their students succeed.

I am asking you to support Bill #1061, to increase funding for all agri science programs in Connecticut. I may be entering my senior year next September, but I have a sister in 8th grade who is applying to the program. My sister, along with the 190 other applicants to Nonnewaug, deserves the chance to experience everything I have and more. Thank you for your time. If anyone has any questions I would be happy to answer them.
