

Testimony
Submitted to the
Education Committee

March 9, 2009

SENATE BILL NO. 830 AN ACT CONCERNING THE
GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EDUCATION

Good afternoon Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleishmann and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Shi Maine Holmes. I am a life-long resident of Hartford, and I am presently in the 12th grade at the Metropolitan Learning Center Interdistrict Magnet School which is operated by the Capitol Region Education Council.

During my years at Metropolitan Learning Center I have been presented with many unique opportunities, and they have had a significant impact on my life. One important experience was a school sponsored field study to Europe in April 2008. This trip included stops in England, France and Italy. I felt this would be a trip of a lifetime and would help me connect my learning to the real world, as it made special stops in areas that we had studied in AP World History and AP Human Geography class. This was a highly academic trip, and what made it so special was I was able to learn with my diverse group of MLC friends who come from all over the Greater Hartford area.

Another impressive aspect of my experience is that my teachers recognized that I was wrongly placed in my math classes at the start of my career at MLC. My teachers and my principal created special schedules for me so that I could join the honors track, and although it took a great deal of effort, I have greatly benefitted and I am now excelling in Advanced Placement Calculus AB. If they had not taken such a personal interest in my success, I would not be in this college level class today preparing for the AP Exam.

Not only do magnet schools give students unique opportunities, but they help students prepare for our future. Applying to colleges is the biggest challenge that seniors face. At MLC,

we have the most outstanding guidance department. There are many applications that we have available to us, and our guidance office will make copies and show us great attention as we go through this difficult and exciting process. If a new scholarship or special program comes in and addresses a student's personal interest, the staff makes sure we get it. This personal service is amazing. Many of my friends are the first in their family to go to college, so the guidance staff helps them tremendously because their parent may not know what to do. I am so thankful that I my school that helps me to succeed and takes a personal interest in my futures. I thank the city of Hartford for funding my education at MLC; I also thank the legislature for this opportunity. All students should have rigor, opportunity and personalization in their education. I feel Connecticut would be a better state because the workforce would be more prepared to address future needs. All students should have rigor, opportunity and personalization in their education. I feel Connecticut would be a better state because the workforce would be more prepared to address future needs. I implore the state to fully fund the magnet schools so others can have the chances I have.