

Testimony from Jennifer Alexander
Executive Director of Kidcity Children's Museum of Middletown.

Chairwoman Daily, Chairman Staples and members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to you today.

I understand that a bonding allocation of \$1 million for the Kidcity Children's Museum in Middletown is slated for removal. I'm testifying today to ask you to intervene to preserve these funds.

Kidcity is an educational non-profit that brings 100,000 visitors to Middletown's downtown every year. During the past 12 years, Kidcity has provided a vital enhancement to the quality of life in our region, as families from all over Connecticut and beyond come to learn and play in our hands-on exhibits. Our visitors also patronize the shops and restaurants in Middletown, creating an economic engine for the renaissance of our Main Street. As active members of our downtown community and the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, we know that Kidcity has been an important partner in the continued strength of our central business district.

Please take action to preserve the funding that was previously allocated for Kidcity Children's Museum, so that we can pursue an expansion of the museum, increasing our impact on the commercial viability of Middletown's downtown and the quality of educational opportunities in our region.

This investment on the part of the state is a solid choice for economic development, educational improvement and the quality of life in Central Connecticut. Thank you for your support.