

March 21, 2011

Senator Toni Harp
Appropriations Committee Co-Chair
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Toni Harp

My name is Zachary T. Karwaski and I am a sophomore in the Stamford regional Agriscience and Technology program.

I live in Stamford, CT and I attend this regional agriscience school, because the field of animal science and technology interests me and it would be deeply crushed if it was to be cut out of the school programs. This program is what I look forward to everyday over all of my classes. I like this program because of its interesting units and people and everything that goes with it. The reason I am in the agriscience program is that I have always taken a shine too for many years to come. This program helps me take care of my families many pets and not just mine all of my cousin's pets as well. It taught me to care for a dog in every aspect from care to anatomy. In my future I plan to be a vet or a computer creator and designer and an accountant may'be. My SAE is working at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center on the weekends. I work with horses, sheep, cows, oxen, llamas and goats. My SAE is like a place where I have no stress or a care in the world all I have to do is work with animals, no family or anything. The FFA allows me to go on field trips, and the ability to sell the public flowers and care for their dogs. This will help me with preparation for anything I need to do in my life.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter school, vocational technical schools and other school choice funding programs.

This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thanks you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Zachary Karwaski