

Dear Senator Toni Harp,

My name is Meg McLeish and I am a sophomore in the Killingly agriscience program in Killingly, Connecticut. I live in Brooklyn, Connecticut and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I wanted an education that could not be provided at any other school in my area. Agriscience is a hands on program where you learn skills that students not in this agriculture program would never receive. I enjoy this program because of all the opportunities I now have that I never got before. Such as learning how to properly care for animals and make floral bouquets. Also in FFA we can compete in many different regional and even national competitions which can lead to so much success for the program and the students. I hope to succeed in plant science which is important for me to take because my dream is to be a landscape designer. Being in the Horticulture area of Ag Ed will help me achieve my dream because we learn how to understand the growth of plants. Also in plant science, as a class, we are currently building and designing a beautiful conservatory. I would not be as happy in school if I didn't have Ag Ed to go to every day.

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 schools, vocational technical schools and other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)

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.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter

Sincerely,

Meg McLeish

