

Louise Douglas 385 Woodland Street, Hartford CT. 06112

Chairwoman Harp, Chairwoman Walker and Members of The Appropriations Committee:

RE : The Governor's Proposed Budget

I support increased payment for receiving towns under Open Choice.

I am a resident of Hartford, a parent of a former student of the original Project Concern, now a grandparent of a Project Choice student attending a suburban school. I very strongly support increased payment for receiving towns to enable them to continue educating the children enrolled in their classrooms, and to open up more seats.

Over the past decades the program in addition to Director and Staff has added Intervention Specialists. This addition has resulted in tireless and consistent service to bridge the gap between students, families and personnel of the receiving school districts – although more are needed. The Intervention Specialists have resulted in a higher level of communication not only between families and school staff but also additional support for the students. Although the system is working there are still not enough seats. Increased funding would allow towns to accept more Hartford students.

Increasing the payment to receiving towns would allow the towns to better serve the students, and to serve more of them.

Thank You – Louise Douglas