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Resident of Windham
Written Testimony
Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
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I would like to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1195.

My name is Molly Haynes, and I am 16 years old and a junior at Great Path Academy in Manchester. While I am a student at a magnet school in Manchester, the school district I reside in is Windham. I attended Windham public school through seventh grade, but chose not to continue in Windham Public Schools when my reading scores declined throughout middle school.

Senate Bill 1195, An Act Concerning School Finance Reform, addresses how the state funds education. This bill specifically looks at funding students, not systems. I am excited by the funding process proposed in the bill, because I believe it will be a movement towards getting all kids in Connecticut an opportunity to have an equal education.

I want school funding to be fair. I don't want school funding to change because of where I live, and I want my little brother and sister to get the same education in Windham that their cousins in New Milford or Greenwich get. Every child in Connecticut should have the same chances.

Currently, in Windham the state provides about \$7,400 in state aid per student. However, similar students in New Haven receive about \$9,000 and in Hartford just over \$10,000. This makes no sense to me, and seems to be difficult for anyone to understand, or explain. If the students have the same needs, whether it is because they are in an urban setting, on free or reduced lunch, or are English Language Learners, they should get the same level of support from the state.

I urge the members of the committee to support Senate Bill 1195. We need a better system for funding education in Connecticut, and we definitely need a system that makes sense, puts students first, and people can understand and explain.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony on Senate Bill 1195.