

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

Dear Senator Toni Harp,

My name is Mikayla Hood and I am a sophomore in the Wamogo Regional High School agriscience program in Litchfield. I live in Thomaston, and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I am very interested in learning as much as I can about animals, especially horses. I am currently in the process of putting up fencing and a barn in hope of purchasing a horse and possibly sheep in the future. At Wamogo, our ewes have recently given birth to five lambs, and I was able to have the experience of being able to take on of these lambs home and bottle feed it through the night to help boost its chances of survival, because of the complications it was having. Not many people are able to have these experiences. This program is definitely going to be beneficial for my future. The agricultural program is helping me gain the knowledge and experience I need to help me with my family farm. In the agriculture program you are able to interact with other students who have the similar interests. We can choose from animal science, agricultural mechanics, plant science, and natural recourses. There are many students from the agricultural program that easily secure jobs out in the field because of SAE (supervised agricultural experience). SAE gives students work experience out in the field and it gives them more knowledge about the field they would like to go into. For my SAE I care for and feed the animals at the school on the weekends and I am able to interact with these animals and I have definitely learned a lot from this program.

“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 under funded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the 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,


Mikayla Hood