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**Testimony of Athena Wagner - Waterbury, Ct.
Supporting Bill 1195
Before the Appropriations Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Public Hearing, March 24, 2011**

Good afternoon Chairs, Sen. Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee....I thank you for this opportunity to testify about Senate Bill 1195.

My name is Athena Wagner from Waterbury, Ct.....I am a mother of 3, a grandmother of 2, a community activist, education advocate, and a correction officer.....I'd like to present some alarming data to the public from a partial list:

LOOK AT THIS DATA (partial list):

1. Kennedy H.S.----3.4% of the school's 29 black males are scoring at/above goal Math
2. Walsh----9.1% of the school's 55 black males are scoring at/above ...goal Math
3. Tinker-----72.7% of the school's 44 hispanic males are scoring at/above goal Math
4. Wilby H.S.-----3.8% of the school's 52 hispanic males are scoring at/above goal Math
5. Crosby H.S.-----5.3% of the 57 hispanic males are scoring at/above goal Math
6. Generali -----61% of the 41 black males are scoring at/above goal writing
7. Wendell Cross -----64.7% of the 34 hispanic males are scoring at/above goal Writing
8. Crosby H.S. -----3.5% of the 57 hispanic males are scoring at/above goal Reading
9. Walsh -----5.5% of 55 hispanic males are scoring at/above goal Reading

YET, APPROXIMATELY \$14,000.00 IS ALLOCATED PER CHILD TO BE EDUCATED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN WATERBURY!!!.....AND WE HAVE LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT WILL TELL THE PUBLIC THAT OUR SCHOOLS ARE NOT FAILING and our students are doing quite well.....UNBELIEVABLE!.....WHERE DOES THE \$\$\$ GO FOR THE STUDENTS THAT DROP OUT OR MOVE OUT OF DISTRICT or FOR

ALL OF THE STUDENTS THAT ARE FUNCTIONING BELOW GRADE LEVEL?.....Where is the FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY?

It's amazing to me that we can't afford to educate these children in the school system that is already FAILING them, but we can afford to pay more than double that amount when they are more than likely to end up in prison and upon their release, we have the audacity to expect them to become productive citizens of society.....If that's not backwards and a misappropriation of funds, then I don't know what is! This is why I support Senate Bill 1195.