



Testimony of: Victor De La Paz  
In support of: HB 6385

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Honorable Co-Chairs Stillman and Fleishmann, members of the committee,

My name is Victor De La Paz and I am the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Hartford Public Schools. I'm here today to testify in support of HB 6385, An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Education.

Hartford Public Schools applauds Governor Malloy's proposed budget and its very clear message that education is a priority for the state of Connecticut. We support HB 6385 without exception, but would like to focus on two aspects of the bill for the record.

First, that local boards of education would be allowed to manage the regional vocational-technical school is a very positive proposal for Hartford. We already are one of the largest operators of inter-district schools in the state and adding a Career Tech school would strengthen Hartford's portfolio of schools and be a fine addition to the 12 regional schools that we already operate.

Second, maintaining of the minimum budget requirement at 2009 levels for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 is a prudent proposal. The next couple of years will present unprecedented budgetary pressures to municipalities and school districts. Holding firm on education funding, and protecting the classroom while the size of government is right-sized is a wise strategy for the state with the largest achievement gap in the nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today on these important issues and we ask that you support House Bill 6385 without exception.