

TESTIMONY: Jessica Johnson, Waterbury Parent

Hearing February 21st.

Speaking for Family Resource Center to the Appropriations Education Subcommittee

I am a single mother of two and am here to testify of the benefits that my child has received from a school that has incorporated FRC into the daily learning of my child. I learned about the recent cuts during meeting with the FRC director and talking about a program they were offering, People Empowering People, that inspired me to speak in front of you today.

In preparing this testimony and discussing my visit to the Capital with my son – who had visited this very room on a field trip sponsored and encouraged from FRC - I realize the impact that our FRC has motivated my child. As a parent, the FRC has given me the tools to prepare my son to be the achiever that he is. One little thing that was shared with me was a secret that my son Maurice shares with Maryangela, our FRC Director, and that secret is “Reading will make you successful enough so that in the future you can be whatever you want to be.” That secret is a small point but one of the huge tools that our FRC has helped me to enforce the morals and values into my child. I am one of 700 parents that appreciate that secret shared with our children.

Maurice, who is now in fifth grade, has benefited directly from programs such as: Mutti-gree, Junior Achievement, and has learned to donate to the Leukemia Foundation. These programs have encouraged empathy and compassion in my child. The Junior Achievement has given him an optimistic attitude regarding money in the future. All the programs are in the community but these are delivered to my child through the efforts of the FRC.

For the past two years FRC has given me knowledge to make me an involved parent. One example is a simple bookmark that has the reading strategies used to help promote my child learning while he is reading. With that bookmark I feel that I am helping my child learn, I too am Maurice’s teacher, as a matter of fact he made it to the semi finals in the spelling bee, and last year he place #8 in the Math Minute Madness in the 125 student competition.

I receive newsletters from FRC informing me everything from tips to prepare my son for the CMT’s, to income tax preparation, and the barriers of the Achievement Gap. Last year after the Achievement gap letter was sent out, I was one parent of four hundred parents that signed and returned the letter stating that I too would join the force to make our children succeed.

My younger son Mason will be entering kindergarten in the fall at Chase School. As a mother I want him to benefit as my oldest son has. I sit here to tell you please do not cut funding to the Family Resource Centers because you would be decreasing the goal that parents like I have set for their children.