

Date: February 19, 2013

From: David G. Schatz, New Haven, CT

To: Conn. Representative Andrew Fleischmann, Co-chair, Education Committee
Conn. Senator Andrea Stillman, Co-chair, Education Committee
Conn. Representative Toni Walker, Co-chair, Appropriations Committee
Conn. Senator Toni Harp, Co-chair, Appropriations Committee

Some tragedies cannot be avoided, but this one can: Governor Malloy's proposed cut to the After-School Grant Program is a tragedy in the making and I am writing to ask you to help reverse this cut.

My daughter is a sophomore at Co-op (Cooperative Arts and Humanities) High School in New Haven. There are many excellent schools in New Haven, including Co-op, but one of the true gems of the entire school system is the extraordinary Co-op After School (CAS) program. CAS, through its dozens of innovative classes, captivates, enthralls, educates, broadens, amuses, strengthens, and enlivens the outer lives and inner worlds of hundreds of Co-op students each day. The enthusiasm and engagement of the students is palpable and is mirrored by the commitment and energy of the many instructors. The benefits to the students, to their families, and to the community in increased economic productivity and reduced crime, cannot easily be measured and greatly exceeds the modest cost of the program.

CAS is a treasure—as far as I can tell, a unique treasure—that offers so much to so many students and families, both from New Haven and surrounding towns. Its demise would be a tragedy on a large scale. One often hears the question: how shall we occupy today's youths outside of school hours? **I ask you to reverse the budget cuts that threaten to rip the heart out of the very best and most creative answer to this question that exists in New Haven, and perhaps the state.**

Please help preserve the After-School Grant Program!