



**State of Connecticut**  
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Senator Harp, Representative Walker, distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee; for the record, I am Representative Paul Davis (117<sup>th</sup> Assembly District) serving Orange, West Haven and Milford.

I am submitting testimony in support of the West Shore Achieves Visionary Education After-School program (W.A.V.E.) at West Shore Middle School in Milford. The West Shore program is a quality afterschool learning program that serves over 80 families and is in jeopardy of being eliminated as a result of losing their state funding proposed by Governor Malloy's budget.

This program is a partnership between Bridges, a community based organization and West Shore Middle School. In this economy it is becoming increasingly necessary to have two incomes. After-school programs support working families by keeping children safe and supervised in the hours between when school ends and parents get out of work as well as provide learning opportunities for all children. The program offers time for children to work on homework and participate in enriching, hands-on activities. Students are engaged in learning by making lessons come alive in a socially interactive environment. They continually seek community member support to come in and teach our youth about college and career options. The staff at West Shore's after school program is run by qualified professionals who truly care about the social, emotional, physical needs of the children.

In addition to the state funds, they also leverage some existing funds provided by the Middle Public schools and support within the community to provide high quality programming.

I thank you for reading my testimony and would appreciate your positive consideration for this necessary program.