



State of Connecticut

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March 6, 2014

Sen. LeBeau, Rep. Perone, Sen. Crisco, Rep. Becker and members of the Commerce Committee:

I am Sen. Art Linares and I am testifying in strong support of HB 5403, requesting that the Connecticut Invention Convention, (CIC) a 501c3 non profit education organization, be funded with a \$100,000 appropriation in the state budget for 2014-2015 for expansion of its STEM educational programs in Connecticut.

I am proud to say that as a 4th grader at Daisy Ingraham School in Westbrook, I was a young inventor.

Today, I am a successful entrepreneur.

The Connecticut Invention Convention is an award winning, internationally recognized, educational organization that is open to students statewide. It is designed to develop, encourage, and enhance critical thinking skills through invention, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The goal is to provide students with a unique means to discover new skill sets and creatively apply these in real-life settings while nurturing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It's about enabling students to research, analyze and effectively focus on and solve their real-life problems.

The annual convention also gives many students and parents an introduction to careers in engineering with exhibits staffed by UConn's students and professors which showcase engineering subjects, including civil, mechanical and chemical engineering – helping students discover engineering and science as real possible careers.

Could the next “Big Idea” that changes the world originate from Connecticut student?

This bill with its focus on STEM, could help make that happen.