

Rev. Rha-Sheen Brown  
15 Marmon Street  
New Britain, CT 06053

March 2, 2015

Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Proposed funding cuts to vital family, school and community supports

Dear Appropriations Committee and New Britain State Delegation,

My name is Rev. Rha-Sheen Brown, and I reside at 15 Marmon Street New Britain, CT 06053. I am a committed father of 5 children and a husband to my wife of 15 years. I have been a Pastor in New Britain for 10 years, and I am a formal alderman. Along with my wife, and my church, I organize my community in New Britain. We are all very active and involved in our city. Right Now Ministries, Inc. currently provides an after school program at Pulaski Middle school, in partnership with the Consolidated School District of New Britain, because our youths need all the support they can get.

The purpose of this letter is to restore the cuts made in the budget in the Raised HB. No. 6824 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE. This budget affects the Community Plans for Early Childhood and after school programs in New Britain. I want to highlight that we need more money for our New Britain school Kids. In 2013, the Coalition for New Britain's Youth was recognized by the national Grade-Level Reading Campaign for community leadership in helping young children succeed in school. New Britain is also often noted in CT and beyond for its pioneering work in addressing summer learning loss and chronic absenteeism. Looking at the size of our city, our youthful criminal activities are very high, and we have one of the lowest test scores when compared to surrounding cities. Our students still struggle and need our continued support to help them to continue to succeed. Education is the only option out of poverty. The district and parents like me, need you to consider us when you finalize this budget.

Please consider ALL of our New Britain children and not restore the funding on this budget, but also consider increasing the funding for New Britain. Me and all of New Britain appreciate all your support. Thank you for your time and considering my request. I can be directly reached at 860-839-5344 or sosstudios@yahoo.com

Sincerely,  
Rev. Rha-Sheen Brown