

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Beth Mazadoorian, I live at 76 Laurel Road in New Britain, CT. I am the parent of two children at New Britain High School. I write to express my grave concern regarding implementing the budget recommendations of the Governor concerning education, SB 942. More specifically, I am dismayed at the flat funding for ESC. It is essential to cities like New Britain that the ESC rate be raised in order to continue to provide the quality education that our students deserve. Without an increase, New Britain will face layoffs and dramatic program cuts which will have a negative impact on some of the neediest students in the state. At the same time, the budget proposes increases for Charter and Magnet schools which are already funded at a significantly higher per pupil rate than districts like New Britain. In order for our students to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and be prepared for college and career, students must be provided a strong educational foundation, a foundation as strong as the one provided for students in magnet and charter schools and students in neighboring suburban towns. Flat funding for ECS will do irreparable damage to struggling urban schools. In one of the wealthiest states in the country, this is unconscionable, the ESC rate must be increased to equal the playing field for all students.

Thank you for your consideration,

Beth Mazadoorian