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Good evening,

My name is Tammy Boyle and I am here in support of raised bill number 1096.

I am a Bridgeport Public School parent who has two special needs sons, and I have volunteered in the Bridgeport Public Schools for over 8 years for over 16,000 hours.

In April of last year, the elected district Parent Advisory Council which represents almost 30,000 Bridgeport public school parents, voted to place a moratorium on charter schools. This was presented to the state Board of Education during their public hearings and it was totally disregarded.

The legislature allocates \$8,600 for each Bridgeport public school child, however state Charter Schools receive \$11,000 per child.

Currently, Hartford spends almost \$19,000 per child, New Haven spends \$17,000 and Bridgeport spends \$14,000. The question I have for you today is why are Bridgeport public school students worth so much less than other urban students and charter school students?

Malloy's own ECS Taskforce identified Bridgeport as the most underfunded school district in Connecticut on a cash basis placing the number at around \$43 million.

Although over one hundred Bridgeport residents from diverse backgrounds attended and/or testified at a local state Board of Ed hearing that we did not want another charter school in Bridgeport, the state Board of Education could have cared less. Bridgeport already had more charter schools than any other district in CT, yet they approved two more last April.

Over the first 5 years, these two charter schools, will cost the Bridgeport Public Schools almost \$13 million dollars in transportation and special education costs we are required to cover under state law, and although ECS funds do not follow the child, the federal Title I allocation of \$600 per child does. How can it possibly be acceptable that 22,000 students in the most underfunded school district in CT will lose \$13 million dollars to fund about 2,500 students in charter schools?

How does this state have approximately \$12 million for Dr. Perry's new charter school slated to open in Bridgeport next year and another in Stamford that will serve less than a 500 students combined, but you do not have the \$12 million dollars desperately needed by the Bridgeport Public Schools that will directly impact almost 22,000 students?

Should the legislature fund Dr. Perry's charter school, we will have six state charter schools in Bridgeport which combined will divert \$26 million from our severely underfunded Bridgeport Public Schools over the next 5 years. Although less than 2% of CT students attend charter schools, Bridgeport is already at 10%.

I am pleading with this committee, and the legislature to not only pass this bill, but to also ensure Dr. Perry's charter school in Bridgeport is not funded. We do not want another charter school in Bridgeport.

Thank you for allowing me to speak before this committee this evening.