



March 2, 2015

TO: APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
RE: FUNDING FOR CONNECTICUT INVENTION CONVENTION IN  
H.B. No. 6824 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFORE AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE

Dear Appropriations Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members:

The Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) is an education nonprofit whose mission is to inspire Connecticut’s children and youth to become inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs through school-based programs. *We believe that every child, in every school, should become an inventor once, better twice, to increase their interest in STEM careers.*

**CIC has grown by over 67% with CGA support, in the last two years:**

- **15,000 Connecticut K-12 children** are now in CIC programs in over half the school districts
- **215 schools are participating, entire districts, in this critical STEM program, recommended by SDE**
- **25% of CIC inventors are from under-represented minorities** in Hartford, Danbury, Bridgeport, New London, New Haven, Waterbury and Stamford. CIC now produces materials in **English and in Spanish.**
- **54% of inventors are girls**, an under-served group in STEM interest and careers
- **Prior General Assembly support has been matched 16:1** by corporate and foundation funders

**The CIC is the longest operating program of its kind in the nation, the largest, and now, with your support, the fastest growing to support the innovation agenda of Connecticut and the nation.**

This is a request to **restore the \$25,000** line item in the DECD in the upcoming biennial budget. With the uninterrupted funding of the CIC:



**More teachers can be trained, so that more students become inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs, filling the pipeline for a STEM-skilled workforce needed in the future by Connecticut businesses!**

See over for testimony from a parent of a 4th<sup>th</sup> grader last year, who participated at the local and state level in the CIC.

From: XXXXX@live.com  
To: jduffy@southingtonschools.org  
CC: XXXXX@southingtonschools.org;  
Subject: Thank you for such a great opportunity!  
Date: Mon, 5 May 2014 00:06:13 -0400

I just wanted to inform you what an incredible experience we had this past Saturday at the 2014 Connecticut Invention Convention! More importantly, I wanted to thank you for providing this opportunity for my child.

This event was beyond description. To be fortunate enough to attend this event at the Gampel Pavilion at the University of Connecticut, as one of the 770 students from across Connecticut who were selected to participate (from among the 11,000 students state-wide who applied for this distinction) was quite a humbling honor enough. You can imagine the feelings my 10 year old from Plantsville Elementary School's fourth grade felt when she was selected as an award winner as one of the only 270 inventors to be a "Recognized Inventor". Her shock was visible on her face from where we parents sat, across the pavilion floor from the designated inventors seating. Then, to be selected as an award recipient again as one of the 6 inventors recognized by ESPN for the ESPN Sports Awards for Sports-related inventions...I think the term surreal comes to mind.

These two recognitions to my daughter have and will continue to have immeasurable and invaluable impact upon her both on a personal level (i.e. in promoting a higher level of confidence) as well as to promote learning and the value of educational pursuits through inspiring her to learn, create, and participate.

To truly appreciate this experience and its impact, you must know my child. Amanda is not a prodigy nor an academic. She is simply a student who loves her time spent with her teachers Mrs. N. and Mrs. C. learning science. Because of the opportunity you provided, she had the opportunity to reflect upon a real life "problem" that personally effected and concerned her; the letting down of her YMCA Sting Rays swim teammates when her performance at a swim meet was adversely effected by her swim goggles falling off. Through a chance to participate in the Invention Convention, Amanda was able to apply herself to propose a solution to this problem. Never for one minute did she expect anyone to give her invention a second glance. In fact, to quote her, she told me after this event that this "...was the first award I ever earned".

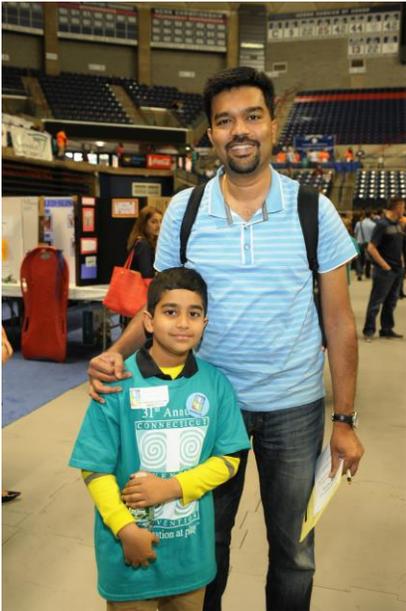
Well, what an award to earn. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you and salute you. By providing such educational pursuits for the children in our school district and for encouraging them in the manner you do, you have touched the lives of this family. We are grateful and appreciate you.

Warmest Regards,

Christopher M.  
Father of Amanda M. Grade 4-Plantsville Elementary School



**A portfolio of CIC Inventors and their families from the 2014 event:**



- **15,000 students are becoming inventors**, innovators and entrepreneurs every year in more than half of Connecticut schools
- **25% of CIC inventors are from under-represented minorities**, because CIC seeks out and funds schools in Hartford, Danbury, Waterbury, Bridgeport, Willimantic, New London, New Haven, Milford and others
- **54% of CIC inventors are girls** – they continue to cite CIC as an experience which affects their career choices in college
- **67% growth** of the programs in just the last two years