

My name is Gerald Maxwell and I reside at 47 Keeney Ave., West Hartford, CT. I am providing this written testimony in support of increased Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) funding for West Hartford.

I moved to West Hartford 34 years ago. At that time West Hartford ranked near the top of cities and towns in terms of expenditure per pupil on public education. Over the years its ranking has fallen dramatically so that it is now much closer to the bottom than the top! This is due in large part due to receiving less funding from the ECS program than the formulas call for.

Over the past 30 or so years West Hartford has become a much more diverse community both ethnically and economically. I applaud these changes because they have made the town a more interesting place to live. At the same time these changes have challenged the town in terms of education with respect to programming and cost.

Ordinary public education is vital for our state to prosper and be a great place to live. Please increase ECS funding for West Hartford so the town can provide quality educational opportunity to all students.

Thank you.