

**Testimony of Nancy Mendez**  
**Before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education**

*In Support of the State Department of Education budget  
with funding for Magnet Schools and other Sheff v. O'Neill integration programs*

*Submitted by*  
*Nancy Mendez, Parent; Montessori Magnet at Moylan*

March 3, 2015

Chairwoman Bye, Chairwoman Walker and distinguished members of the committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you tonight, I want to urge you to continue your support for ALL Magnet Schools, Open Choice and all aspects of the Sheff v. O'Neill agreement.

My story as a parent is that of many Hartford Public Schools parents and today I speak to you as a proud magnet school parent. 6 years ago, my son, started as a Pk3 student at Montessori Magnet at Moylan, then only a program under the Moylan School administration. This program grew into a quality and traditional Montessori Magnet school under the Sheff V. O'Neill umbrella.

I have seen my son flourish; he is learning hands on and experiencing amazing growth. His eagerness to learn has continued thru his years here at Montessori Magnet, he has had the opportunity to explore and be a leader amongst his peers; he loves to show others what he has learned. He told me he plans to become a paleontologist when he grows up and build a museum for all children to visit and learn more about fossils and of course dinosaurs. I believe this is a testament to the amazing education opportunity he has at Montessori Magnet and the great collaboration that exists in our school from Administration, staff, teachers, assistants and families.

I encourage you to approve the funding that will support the continued growth at Montessori Magnet and the whole magnet schools community in our state. Without the financial and legislative support we can succeed, our children can't succeed.

Thank you for your support,

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