

Rev. Rha-Sheen Brown
15 Marmon Street
New Britain, CT 06053

February 24, 2015

The Education Committee
Legislative Office Building room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Education Committee,

My name is Rev. Rha-Sheen Brown, and I reside at 15 Marmon Street New Britain, CT 06053. I am a committed father of 5 children and a husband to my beautiful wife for 15 years. I have been a Pastor in New Britain for 10 years, and I am a formal alderman. Along with my wife, and my church, I organize my community in New Britain. We are all very active and involved in our city. We believe in our city!

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to support the passing of Raised S.B. No. 942 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION. I want to highlight that we need more money for our New Britain school Kids. Looking at the size of our city, our youthful criminal activities are very high, and we have one of the lowest test scores when compared to surrounding cities. Our students struggle and are below the grade level, and testing averages. The poverty and unemployment rate in our city are also higher than the surrounding cities. All these factors are have to be eliminated because they direct our students to failure. Education is the only option out of poverty. The district and parents like me, need you to consider us when you finalize this budget. The Governor's ECS funding is flat for New Britain, and there is no increase that has been provided yet. This will hurt our New Britain school district. I want to also highlight that although the New Britain school District is flat funded in this proposed budget, the Governor increases Magnet schools by \$30 million and Charter Schools by \$12 million. This math does not add up to me, nor to our school district.

I love my city, and the children in it. Our church provide many community-based supports to the youths and adults, but we need you too!!! Please consider ALL of our New Britain children and not only support this bill, but consider increasing the funding for New Britain. Me and all of New Britain appreciate all your support. Thank you for your time and considering my request. I can be directly reached at 860-839-5344 or sosstudios@yahoo.com

Sincerely,
Rev. Rha-Sheen Brown