

Dennis Bradley
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Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I write this letter in support of Bill 1096 and to express my deep concerns with the public funding of any and all charter schools especially the proposed funding of any charter schools in Bridgeport.

As a young professional in CT who has had the privilege and honor of being educated by true public schools I can tell you first hand of the passionate and talented teachers that have been the overwhelming majority of my teachers.

I have not always been a stellar student, especially in my more formative years. But my public school teachers went the extra mile to instill discipline, respect, and ultimately a love for learning. It was their dedication that enabled me to pursue higher learning.

I am horrified with the thought that students like me will be sold short and not given the opportunity to have the same degree of dedication that I was afforded due to the fact that the vast majority of charter school teachers do not meet Connecticut's rigorous teacher certification requirements and are often inexperienced which is detrimental to our urban students .

Charter schools take money and resources from already impoverished urban areas and make poor academic students that much more unlikely to succeed.

I ask that you consider our social, moral and American obligation to educate our youth and not further disable our true public school students, teachers and parents.

It is only logical when knowing the obligation we have that we consider all positive and negative factors in the light of the best interest for our children. There is an insufficient amount of research on the effectiveness of Charter schools and their negative impact on our true public schools.

many of us who reside in Bridgeport witness on a daily basis how the severe underfunding of the Bridgeport Public Schools is only exacerbated by charter schools. This current school year, the state has allocated almost \$30 million to the five charter school located in Bridgeport. In addition, the Bridgeport Public Schools will lose \$2.8 million dollar in funding due to the state laws which requires the Bridgeport Board of Education to fund the five current charter schools transportation and special education costs, and also includes the loss of federal Title I funds.

Lastly, According to Governor Malloy's ECS Taskforce, the Bridgeport Public Schools is owed a minimum of \$43 million dollars in ECS funding and almost 22,000 students are desperate for the invaluable resources this critical funding can provide. Every charter school you fund siphons millions away from these poor and middle class students, therefore not only am I enthusiastically in support of this bill, I also urge the legislature not to fund Dr. Perry's school slated to open in Bridgeport this fall.