Testimony for Education Committee relating to HB 5336, Public Hearing on March 8, 2018

I am writing to inform the education committee of my strong support of HB 4336. As a parent and a concerned citizen who strongly believes in the value of a strong and well supported public schools, I would like to voice my support of requiring that there be a separate line item for the State Education Resource Center (SERC) in the budget of the Department of Education. Connecticut continues to have some of the worst income inequality and achievement gaps especially when we look at marginalized communities. SERC has been on the forefront in fighting for educational opportunity for all our children. The work that they have done to providing desperately needed opportunities for professional development plays an important role in ensuring that our educators are empowered to provide culturally responsive learning environments that benefits all of our children. Parents from all kinds of backgrounds and ethnicities move into communities based on the quality of the education that they believe there children will achieve. Race, ethnicity, and financial status should not be obstacles to quality education. Not only is quality education critical for the success of our children, it is critical to the success of our communities and our nation. Now more than ever, the work of SERC is important. As long as we continue to perpetuate injustice and inequities in our education system, we will continue to diminish the ability of our workforce to meet the demands of a technologically advancing society. If a segment of our population can not gain access to quality education, then this hurts all of our ability to compete in the global workforce. Please take a vote for the future of all our children and support funding for SERC in the budget for the Department of Education so that they can continue this important work.

Karell Rose, South Windsor, CT