Appropriation Committee Hearing on Education
Joshua Robinson
Bristol, CT
Junior at American School for the Deaf
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Hello, I want to thank all of you for being here today. My name is Joshua Robinson. I’m one of the students from the American School for the Deaf. My family is all hearing, except for me and my younger brother, Ethan, who are Deaf. Ethan is 14 years old and he also goes to ASD. I started at ASD in 2005. So, I have been going to ASD for nearly 14 years - that’s a lot!!

I learn many things from my classes, like reading, writing, math, history, and science. I also learn a lot from many different trips that ASD provides. I recently went to Washington, D.C. to talk with Connecticut Representatives and Senators. I have also participated in On the Road, a program that allows groups of students to travel to different states and write about their experiences. The program is about a week or two, depending on how much we earn through fundraising. I really love the trips that ASD provides.

I also play basketball. This is my second year being on the varsity team. I joined other clubs, too - Academic Bowl team, Drama Club, a cooking competition and the Robotics Team. Yeah, I’m part of a lot of clubs! I can always participate in everything at ASD because I have full communication access. Like I said, grab opportunities when you can, because you might not be able to do it again later on.

I have also been a huge role model for other students. Everyday, I represent ASD. I do a lot to help ASD improve. Also, students look up to me.
Now, let’s get to my favorite part. ASD is very different from other schools because they provide everything that I mentioned above. Also, they’re part of my family. I’m sure I wouldn’t be who I am today without ASD. I’m sure I would just be a “disabled” student in public school. ASD isn’t like that – they include deaf kids from all around CT and give them the supports they need to thrive. This is why ASD is a better option than all of the other schools.

Trust me, in my opinion, I believe ASD needs more support from you. If you all support us and give us more money, we can provide more support for students. Not just at ASD, but in state of CT.

I guarantee you all that with more support, ASD will grow and show that we are just like you – there is no difference between us. We are all human, right? Humans help others, right? So, it would mean a lot if you all support ASD. We will then, of course, support you back by thanking you for everything you have done for us! I really thank you for listening to me today. I hope you will help by supporting ASD!