Testimony of Srida Kadari, Ellington

Dear Chairwoman Walker, Chairwoman Osten, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Srida Kadari, and I live in Ellington, CT. Discovery Academy is the first and only school I have ever attended. I am in 5th grade now and still at Discovery. I had and still am having many great experiences at Discovery. In Pre-K my teacher let me read whenever I could. I love reading my teacher gave me the chance to do what I was best at but encourage us with other things too. Mrs. Gaudino in 2nd grade made everything fun. Our lessons our work there was always something that made it it fun so students could enjoy what they were doing. In 5th grade now my teachers Mrs. Swanson, Mrs. Smith, and especially Mrs.Worley have us make our own choices while guiding us. This helps support me in making my own decisions when I don’t have an adult to make my decisions. All of these experiences have made me the person I am today. My school is the kind of place where there are many different kinds of students. We come from different places and have different backgrounds. This helps me to understand other people’s cultures and experiences. Without Discovery Academy, I wouldn’t have a chance to make those connections.

Having equal funding for magnet schools will keep our great programs going and support everyone in schools just like mine across the state. Without equal funding magnet schools will have to keep cutting down on programs we have going in our school. Magnet schools already have already made cuts that we can see like eliminating Summer School, and Saturday Academy that were supporting kids to give them the extra help they need to be successful.

I urge you to pass House Bill 7109. This bill will give students like me the opportunity to go to and experience a quality magnet school program. It will help our schools and district support our extra curricular activities as well as our everyday lessons. Magnet schools like ours also attract children of various socioeconomic backgrounds, races, and academic achievement levels. Without equal funding this will soon end and maybe after a few years close down schools. We need equal funding to support our schools.

I get to go to a great school. I ask that you pass this bill so others can too.

Thank you,

Srida Kadari, Ellington