Good morning, my name is Michelle Lindsay, grandmother of three children all who attend Achievement First Schools in Bridgeport and New Haven.

Growing up in Bridgeport, I had a difficult life one that I do not wish to see my grandchildren live anew. I am a praying Grandmother, and woman of faith and for that reason I believe that this committee will do whatever is in their power to make sure all kids are funded fully and equitably, and they will not make distinctions in terms of public traditional schools and public charter schools.

Our kids need to feel that their state is supporting them as they continue to grow and exceed academic expectations based on the SBAC’s. But instead they are told they deserve less... something is not right with that!

What our kids need are champions like Mr. Simon Obas principal at Achievement First Middle School in Bridgeport, a man that looks like them and lives the principals that are foundational values at AF. But instead our state continues to leave them out of conversations and new opportunities for additional funding, like the new weights added to the cost sharing formula, which would result in more money and thus additional resources for our kids education.

Do what is right, encourage our kids as they work hard in the same manner that their dedicated teachers celebrate, encourage and motivates them daily.

Support, fully fund and expand opportunities for families, the dividends will have long lasting positive effects in the future of this state.

Respectfully,

Michele Lindsay