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Testimony

My name is Suzanne Artis and I am the librarian at one of our CREC schools and my sons also all graduated from a CREC school. I support House Bill 7109 not just as a teacher, but as a parent. My sons were attending a private school, but the transportation costs and lack of diversity were problematic for my family. The CREC Metropolitan Learning Center in Bloomfield provided an education for my sons which was equivalent to that private school experience while supporting their growth as young men of color. The International Baccalaureate program at MLC offered a unique opportunity which made my children excel throughout school and stand out in the college application process. All three of my sons were admitted to Ivy League schools and their experience at a CREC magnet school played a huge role in their success. As a teacher, the recent reduction in my salary at MLC has impacted me negatively. At the same time, I believe strongly in CREC and our effort toward social justice. I believe strongly enough to drive an hour from the shoreline and to have my sons travel that same distance. My heart is with CREC and we need the funding to continue to offer unique academic and cultural experiences with a focus on life-long learning and equity.