Testimony of Mollie Rusczyk, Newington, CT

Dear Senator Abrams, Representative Rosario, Senator McCarty, Representative Somers, and members of the Appropriations Subcommittee,

My name is Mollie Rusczyk. I am from Newington, CT and I am an Administrative Assistant at CREC Reggio Magnet School of the Arts. Please read this letter aloud at the appropriations meeting on March 6th. I am writing to ask that you provide additional funding to magnet schools in the budget. For the past ten years, funding for Magnet Schools has been flat. During this same time, funding for public school districts through ECS grant increase by 8.6% statewide.

Interdistrict Magnet Schools enroll more than 35,000 students in 85+ schools distributed throughout the state. These magnet schools fulfill a mission to ensure that all students have access to high quality, integrated education. In the past two years, CREC Magnet Schools have made significant effort to reduce expenses through cuts to staff and programming. Despite these cuts, the magnet school programs continue to run deficits.

I am writing this testimony to urge you to include funding for HB7109, which increases statutory base funding for magnet schools by 5%. Please include funding in the budget for this increase. Our children depend on this funding to continue their high quality education in our magnet schools.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Mollie Rusczyk