

Dear Co-Chairs Sanchez and McCrory, Vice Chairs Barry and Daugherty Abrams, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Kate Conetta, and I am a resident of Danbury. I'm writing today to express support for Senate Bill 948.

The pandemic has magnified longstanding problems in many areas of society – housing, jobs, healthcare.

Key among these is education.

With the goal of equity in mind, CT has not been meeting the needs of its schoolchildren.

This bill, which calls for fully funding the ECS formula and adjusting the weights for those students with greater needs, would go a long way in addressing disparities in communities with higher populations of English language learners (here in Danbury, that is 25% of our student body), communities with concentrated poverty, and communities with higher populations of BIPOC students.

Our students deserve to be supported based on what education experts determine they need to be successful. Our communities are looking to you to lead the change in law that we need in order for that to happen – one that focuses financial support at all schools, but especially those with greater need, as was intended by the original ECS plan.

This pandemic has seen public education face unbelievable hurdles. Students, families and educators in CT need you to stand up for them and ensure that schools receive the attention and support they deserve to bring a quality education to all.

I urge you to support SB948, and to work with your colleagues to do the same.

Sincerely,  
Kate Conetta  
Danbury, CT