Education Committee
SUPPORT: Executive Budget Charter School Per Pupil Increase
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

I hope all is well with you and your family amid this pandemic, I wish you and yours a happy and healthy New Year.

My name is Bernadette Gillot Lamousnery mother to two young black boys who attend Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Elementary and Middle School (public charter schools), and my eldest son who is in the military.

I am part of a steady drum beat of families that are reaching out to you to ensure that our children don't get pushed aside when it comes to equity in education. I can't help being direct in my ask after so many years of fighting against something so unacceptable: and that is the treatment of some of **Connecticut students as second class citizens**. Funding public charter school children, minorities, **Under** what the State has determined is the minimum amount of funding per student.

For years I have written letters, attended meetings, made calls to electeds and I often ask myself , am I making a difference? Then I think of all the beautiful faces of the children- including my boys and the teachers at AF-pouring so much knowledge, love, care and inspiration onto them. My sense of frustration turns into determination, so here I am yet again, in the middle of a pandemic writing to you to ensure you stand up for what is right, not what others determine is feasible in the "budget".

Fight for funding that is focused on the students needs regardless of zip code, class and socioeconomic background. Demand with me that all students receive the same funding regardless of the school they attended in CT. Right now, the state values my children's education as less than their peers in other nearby schools. Last but not least, the future of children just like mine are in the balance at Stamford Excellence; they need a middle school to continue attending a top performing school in CT. In Danbury CT. Danbury Prospect is waiting to open their doors, families are anxiously awaiting the moment their kids can leave crowded classrooms and walk into a school with a proven track record of excellence in education.

I invite you to join our upcoming zoom meetings with CTCSA. We would love to hear from you and work alongside you; to ensure this year is **the year when Connecticut finally becomes a State that can pride itself on having Educational Equity in funding for ALL Students.**

**I stand in support of  SB 948, SB 949 and SB 886.**

Regards,

Bernadette Gillot Lamousnery and Family