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RE: HB6616

I would like to give thanks for the education committee and especially to the chair Bobby Sanchez for all of the amazing work that you do and for allowing me the opportunity to testify today.

I am here to support the house bill 6616 that helps to clarify how charter schools in Connecticut are funded in a fair way. I understand that in this day and age everything is about politics. But I am here to say that our student;s education shouldn't be guided by politics. We should ensure that all of our communities have access to high quality schools.

I was a product of the Danbury public school system and graduated from Danbury high. A school that will soon have over 3,000 students. It is a school where you can easily get lost. I barely saw any latino teachers and administrators that I could relate to. I am here to tell you that it matters. It matters to students like myself that we have educational leaders that look like us.

My mother didn't have any other educational choices that fit her needs so I had to go to Danbury high school. I would have loved to have had a school like Danbury Prospect where I could have had a more diverse teaching staff, smaller classrooms and environment and a high quality educational opportunity. I and many like myself never had that chance and I hope you help me and many in our communities as we strive to ensure that future generations get the opportunity to receive a high quality education. Black and brown parents in Danbury should also have the ability to choose the schools they want their children to attend. That should not be just for the rich and two politicians shouldn't take that away from us.

In Danbury we don't even have a single educational option that can provide quality educational options and that is not fair. Why must we remain the only city where parents don't have the right to choose what schools they want to attend? Most of the need is for blakc and brown families who are hard working but continue to be severely underserved.

In Danbury we have been fighting to open up a charter school to have at least one option for our families. This school has been continuously blocked by our local legislators because of politics.

I want you to support the house bill 6616 and ensure it contains the necessary funds to allow us to open our school. I want to ensure that our community in Danbury clearly see that you have our backs. That you will help us get our school. Thank you