



February 19, 2021

**Stamford Cradle to Career
Executive Team**

Bob Arnold – Chair
CEO
Family Centers

**Nadene McKenzie Reid –
Vice Chair**
Parent./ Community Member

Isabel Almeida
President
United Way of Western
Connecticut

Anka Badurina, PhD
Executive Director
Building One Community

Barbara Carr
Director, Women's and
Children's Service Line
Stamford Health

Olympia Della Flora
Assistant Superintendent
Stamford Public Schools

Mike Duggan
Executive Director
Domus Kids

Jackie Heftman
Member
Stamford Board of Education

Marc Jaffe
CEO
Children's Learning Centers
of Fairfield County

Kim Kispert
Vice President, Retired
IBM Corp

Alice Knapp
President
The Ferguson Library

Joseph Montalbano
Principal
HLW International LLP

Michael Pollard
Chief of Staff
City of Stamford – Mayor's
Office

Matt Quinones
CEO
Stamford Public Education
Foundation

Vin Tufo
CEO
Charter Oak Communities

Rowena Track
CEO
Boys and Girls Club

Dudley Williams
President & CEO
Mill River Park Collaborative

Candy Yeager
Board Member
United Way of Western

RE: H.B. 6439 - Support for Cradle to Career Funding

Hon. Chair Sen. Hartley and Chair Rep. Gibson, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening and for your service and commitment to our state. My name is Bridget Fox and I am president of Stamford Cradle to Career, an organization in Stamford that collectively aligns community resources to ensure equity in education for all children, regardless of their race or income.

I am testifying in support of House Bill 6439, and specifically in favor of the allocation in the Governor's budget for \$100,000 to support the four cradle to career communities across the state.

Stamford Cradle to Career is a member of the StriveTogether network, a national organization that represents close to 70 communities across the county that have committed to a collective impact approach to addressing disparities in our local education systems. Stamford is one of four communities across the state that have adopted this collective impact model. Bridgeport, Waterbury, Norwalk and Stamford each have cradle to career organizations that are playing critical roles in identifying gaps in resources for low-income students and families, the majority of whom are Black and Latino. We work in partnership with community stakeholders to address these gaps and find solutions.

Our organizations act as connective tissue between nonprofits, civic organizations and the public sector to work on behalf of our most vulnerable students and families. We convene working groups of cross-sector partners to address systems issues relating to early childhood, early grade reading and transition for high school students to post-secondary education or careers. All efforts use data to drive decisions.

The four cradle to career organizations played pivotal roles in organizing community partners during the pandemic. As some examples, in Stamford, our organization assisted Stamford Public Schools in surveying families and teachers throughout the year about re-opening models. Data from these surveys informed decisions. We convened early childhood providers to share critical information at the outset of the crisis and coordinated the distribution of PPE.

Our Bridge to College program helps first generation students matriculate in college each fall, and our Summer Literacy Initiative works with community camp programs

to provide professional development and literacy interventions to students in Kindergarten to third grade.

Stamford Cradle to Career will continue to play a critical role in the city as we move toward recovery.

Financial support from the State validates the importance of collective impact organizations in four large cities that have come to rely on our agencies to elevate issues of inequality and find ways to address them.

Thank you again for your time tonight.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget F. Fox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bridget Fox

President, Stamford Cradle to Career

bridget.fox@uwwesternct.org | 203.883.0960