

**Appropriations Committee**  
**SUPPORT: Executive Budget Charter School Per Pupil Increase**  
**Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I hope this letter finds you well, best wishes for a healthy and happy New year.

I write to you today to join the voices of thousands throughout Connecticut who are fighting for equity in education for all children in our State.

My name is Shawnett Dawkins, I live in Bridgeport, my children attend Achievement First Bridgeport Academy and Classical Studies. I am a nurse, and as many in our community my family and I have been impacted greatly by this pandemic. My children are missing proper classroom engagement and the bonding that takes place socially in school.

I am writing to you to encourage you to support the effort of thousands of families like mine that are fighting for education equity.

We must stop the practice of unequal and inequitable fiscal resources which allow wealthier and more white school districts to spend more per student. My hometown has been drastically underfunded due to these unacceptable practises. It is no secret that there has been a systematic attempt to eradicate choice in education from parents like me- this needs to stop!

We need one educational formula that funds and focuses on the needs of students regardless of where they live, their race or their socio- economic background. Opportunities to open and expand excellent schools with a proven track record of success are vital. Danbury and Stamford minority children have the opportunity to grow and reach tremendous heights in their education, if only their needs were made a priority.

I need you to fight with us for what is right, now is the time.

Please reach out to me with questions or to discuss any further actions in support of our children.

Best regards,

Shawnett Dawkins