

Appropriations Committee

SUPPORT: Executive Budget Charter Per Pupil Increase

Monday, March 8, 2021

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Thank you to the members of the Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to speak with you today on an issue very important to me.

My name Brandon D. Hyde of Norwich Connecticut and I have 2 children that attend the Integrated Day Charter School in Norwich CT. When my wife first presented the idea of a Charter School for our children it was a hard sell. I grew up in public schools and had a great experience. After visiting the school and asking lots of questions my mind was changed. The fact is public schools have changed and education has changed. As we evolve as a community and a people, we realize a one size fits all education is not right for everyone. The Charter school may not be the choice of everyone. But for those who choose that option we cannot imagine it any other way. We see the difference in how our children respond. The school is more of a community then I have seen anywhere else. It goes beyond the education and reaches deep into the social development of our child's life.

The Integrated Day Charter School may be a charter school, but it is not a for profit school. The flat funding of \$11,250 per pupil is not just. The legal minimum for CT public schools is \$11,525. The Governor's proposal to bring us up to the minimum is a nice first step, but it is still not where it should be. My understanding is most local schools are receiving well above the minimum. We are simply asking for a more equal funding level.

In closing all families should have the ability to choose their education, and teachers should have the freedom to innovate. No matter which option a family chooses those options should be funded in an equal manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon D. Hyde". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal line extending across the name.

Brandon D. Hyde