

Name: Vanessa Jenkins (Town of East Hartford)

Tuesday March, 9, 2021 5PM - Testimony in response to the Governor's proposed budget for Elementary and Secondary education in Connecticut

**Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committees :**

My name is Vanessa Jenkins and I am a parent and a Board of Education Member for the Town of East Hartford.

I am here to give testimony in response to the Governor's proposed budget for Elementary and Secondary education in Connecticut and to emphasize the importance of equity in funding education.

The Governor's budget unfortunately does not address the longstanding issues and constant underfunding of our schools. It seeks only short-term fixes on the issue worsened by COVID. It is insufficient. I am writing to you today to express my disappointment regarding the Governor's budget on education, and my hope that we can make a bolder, more sustainable decision on how to fund our schools.

I am no stranger to the fight for justice and equity in education. I was a student of the Project Concern premiere busing program and spoke in our Nation's Capital in support of that program. I also supported CJEF (CT Justice in Education Funding) initiatives.

Being in the midst of budget season for our town and Board of Education, It pains me that we still have to beg for funding that will help our students achieve and reach their goals.

This legislation impacts my life because it impacts my community and gives hope to many.

We must give communities access to resources needed to assist in building that bridge that will close the achievement gap. Rejecting the Governor's proposed budget for education and by passing a budget with significantly more long-term and systemic support for our schools is a step in the right direction.

**CONCLUSION:** The mantra/motto of the district of East Hartford, CT is Every Child Every Day! I urge you to think bolder than the Governor's proposed budget for education. I am hopeful that together, we can impact positively on the future of our children and will show that it really is every child every day. Investing in our most precious resource will add value to the State of Connecticut

Thank you for your time.

Vanessa Jenkins