

Appropriations Committee Hearing

March 9, 2021

David Lewis

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Manchester, CT 06040

My name is David Lewis and I am the father of two Elementary students at Odyssey Community School students in Manchester.

This is my sixth year as part of the Odyssey family and my wife and I are very grateful to the teachers and entire staff at Odyssey for guiding the students in academics as well as being good members of a community.

Our daughters have been thriving in school; tackling long division and helping dad to re-learn it! When I see how hard they work, whether it be researching for a school project or thoughtfully nominating a classmate or teacher for a "CIRCLE" award (Courage, Integrity, Respect, Curiosity, Leadership, Excellence), I am assured that Odyssey is setting a wonderful foundation for them.

This is why I am writing to you today. I have learned that the new state budget is calling for over four million dollars to be taken away from charter schools. This simply just isn't right. It's not fair to our kids and our schools that work so hard and do so well year after year. I can't imagine what could be the rationale, especially when we will rely on our kids to be the leaders of tomorrow. They can't do that if their schools are stripped of much-needed funding.

So, I ask you to please find it in your heart to vote against this criminal cut in funding for charter schools. My two little girls and all of their friends more than deserve it.

Best,

David Lewis

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