

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

My name is Brett Middleton and I am a Hamden resident and a proud parent of two Booker T. Washington Academy (BTWA) scholars.

I thank you for your recent leadership on many of the challenges facing our community, including the efforts to limit the spread of the coronavirus around the Greater New Haven area.

I am writing today on behalf of BTWA and the wonderful educational opportunities our students have access to. Education is very important in my household. Education to my wife and I means our children will have a wider doorway open for them to achieve their goals and dreams. It means them having more career options available to them. BTWA provides this for this for my children

I am asking that you continue to fight to ensure we have equal funding throughout all schools, particularly public charters because right now the thousands of children of color attending those schools are significantly underfunded by the state. We need you to protect Governor Lamont's proposed increase to the minimum amount of funding the education formula says they should receive.

I see so much potential for greatness in the children of BTWA and in the New Haven area. Potential that can lead a scholar to the white house as our president, to the Moon as an astronaut, to the Hospital as a Surgeon, to be entrepreneur, community leaders, and great role models for their future. By not fighting harder you are allowing them to settle for less. No child deserves less than the best from us as parents, community members, and role models.

We live in a time of great tragedies and getting a quality education should not be a second thought. We need you to fight for us as we have fought and voted for you to be where you are. It is your turn to fight harder for our children.

Sincerely,
Brett Middleton
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