

Congressional hearings

Object: Charter School funding

Dear Lawmakers,

It is an honor and a privilege to be able to speak to the education committee about one of the biggest issues in my community. For that, we would like to express my deepest gratitude.

We are Pierre 's family, we are from Norwich where our family have been living for the past 15 years. We are parents to three children.

First and foremost, let me talk to you about my three beautiful children. Our oldest daughter had attended the Integrated Charter School from Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> grade where she learned how to play violin and piano and then went to NFA to be an honor student all the way up and was elected the president of the NAACP. Our twelve years old son and my 4 years old daughter are both attending IDCS where discipline, human and community values are taught to them making them already like my oldest daughter, successful children living in this community. Coming from a foreign country, I feel blessed to call myself an American citizen and to be able to raise these children in a school like IDCS, because in a great and generous America, everyone should be treated and accepted equally regardless of where you live.

When Governor Lamont announced in the budget, the increase funding to charter schools, he simply responds to his duty meaning to make sure that every kid is treated equally by receiving the same quality of education whether they are attending public or charter schools. He understands that in this country the doors of opportunity are open for every child.

Charter School in Norwich has already answered to this call by the quality of education that it offers to the community. I am a beneficiary of it. My son's education requires a special attention, with the available resources, IDCS is working with him to make him a successful pupil.

Too long, the Charter schools in CT that are serving Minorities, Brown, Black communities are underserved and underfunded by our state that choose to

ignore the basic rights of people like us. Making a difference between public schools and charter schools creates a gap between kids; but you know, in America there is not supposed to be a Black, Brown, Poor, Rich, education system, but only an American system of education.

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My daughter that is majoring in Finance and still an "A" Student is a perfect example of what Charter School is offering to the community.

If you oppose to this funding, I would like you to understand and realize that you are taking a chance away from kids like my daughter, to receive the education of their dream.

In conclusion, I am calling on you today not only to support Governor Lamont propose increase funding to charter schools (\$ 11,250 to \$ 11,525), but to approve it. Let us make equality and equity a priority for us and our children.

Thank you. (,)

Samuel & Monette Pierre

Norwich Integrated Charter School

Sapi37@hotmail.com