

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

I am the proud mom of a second grade scholar at Booker T. Washington Academy (BTWA). I also hold a parent liaison position on our school's PTO. Education is very important in our household so when it came time for my son to enter kindergarten I searched hard for a school that shared the same goals as our family's. Our family values the importance of hard work, a quality education, and citizenship. We embrace these virtues because we know they are the key to success. BTWA teaches our son that respect, being kind, self-discipline, and academics prepare students to use the skills required to achieve their college and career goals.

I am writing to you to ask you to do what is right and protect the governor's proposed increase to charter school funding in his budget.

I have many proof points of why I think BTWA is a wonderful place for scholars to learn and grow. It is pretty impressive when a kindergarten scholar is coming home pointing out colors in Spanish & reading entire books alone. As a second grade student, he is writing stories and enjoying doing it. I feel that education just doesn't stop at school. BTWA gets parents involved through our parent academy and helps us help our children with homework and social emotional skills. This has allowed me to make learning fun. Pre-pandemic, we would go to a restaurant and do math with the sugar packets on the table. When we would go to the grocery store, we would point out certain words and read them. My scholar doesn't even realize we are doing school work.

These are a few of many reasons why BTWA matters to my scholar and our family. Please support equitable and fair funding for charter schools in Connecticut by protecting the proposed increase to charter school funding. So many families across the state deserve access to the same quality of education my family is receiving. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tyshanta Roberson