

Shaye A. Roscoe  
Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley

H.B. 6439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR  
THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING  
APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR.

Appropriations Committee  
March 1, 2021

I am writing this testimony in support of H.B. 6439 that provides funding of the Neighborhood Youth Center Grant. The Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley is a member of the Connecticut Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs (the Alliance) and it is through the Alliance that Neighborhood Youth Center Funding is made available to our Boys & Girls Club.

The Alliance consists of Sixteen organizations serving 85,000 young people in twenty-two towns and cities across thirty-two Club sites in Connecticut. Boys and Girls Clubs provide a safe haven that has programs that supplement the school day by providing afterschool educational and recreational opportunities.

Our Boys & Girls Club ran a successful, nine-week summer camp last year to support working parents. When children returned to school, we opened to provide distance learning support Monday-Friday, 7:30 am – 6 pm, and served our members both breakfast and lunch. Children have returned to school for four days a week, and we are open for them before school and after school. In addition, we remain open for the full day on Wednesdays for continued distance learning.

*"I want to thank you and the staff for the awesome work you are doing, I am so grateful for you guys! You have been so incredibly helpful with all this. We so appreciate the Boys and Girls Club remaining open at this time."*

*- Gina M., Parent*

Clubs in Connecticut receive funding through the Neighborhood Youth Center Grant and use that funding to implement four programs designed to improve academic success, develop healthy lifestyles and build good character and citizenship in our members. These programs and others like them enable our clubs to extend and reinforce what is being taught in school.

The Connecticut Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs is a strong partner in the effort to close the achievement gap for so many young people who attend our clubs. Clubs have a very real impact on a young persons life during the critical out of school time. The state of Connecticut has been a great partner in the collective effort to bring opportunities to those children who are challenged by the achievement gap.

In response to the pandemic, our staff members took on the responsibility of “teachers,” ensuring that each child was on track with their Google meets, classwork, and projects daily.

*“In a world where so many kids are struggling, my son is happy as a clam. He looks forward to each day with you guys. I know your organization is a huge part of his success. I cannot thank you enough!”*

*- Jorge Y., Parent*

The Alliance is a statewide entity with the ability to adapt our collective services to the needs of the state and is the optimum partner to provide these critical out of school time services. Please consider supporting Neighborhood Youth Center funding and lets continue in this work together providing “Great Futures” for the children who need us most in Connecticut.