



Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee on H.B. 6439, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023, and Making Appropriations Therefor

March 9, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator Osten and Representative Walker, Ranking Members Senator Miner and Representative France, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Michael Sotomayor, and I'm from Connecticut. I'm writing to oppose H.B. 6439 and Governor Lamont's proposed education budget. I'm also asking you to modify the budget to align with S.B. 948, which is currently in the Education Committee.

As the parents of three children in the Bridgeport Public Schools I am writing this to notify you that we are opposed to a budget plan that negatively affects Bridgeport Public Schools. Your 7 million dollar budget cut is completely unacceptable, Bridgeport public schools are and have been hurting for years now with no hope in sight from our board members who have displayed such a lack of professionalism and lack of positive interest in the future of our cities children. I am currently employed and I work for Westport Public Schools and from what I have witnessed with my own eyes what proper funding can do for the future of kids in that town. To hear what's happening in my own backyard is alarming.

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live.

Please modify the proposed budget to reflect the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.

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