

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

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to reach out to you regarding what is a most important and pressing matter to me and my family. My name is Mrs. Tayon Thompson, I am a parent at Achievement First Bridgeport Academy Elementary School.

I am painfully aware of the ongoing underfunding of charter school students including my own.

As a minority I find myself feeling like I am fighting a war tied to civil rights, in this case equal rights in education. Parents like me have been fighting for years to educate others on the fact that this comes down to basic students rights. The moment that my child's counterparts receive more money for their education/educational needs- from the state; there is a clear violation of basic students' rights at play.

I hope you join me in demanding the end of this abhorrent practise, and ensuring that all students are equally funded according to their needs.

My challenges at home are hard and complicated, magnified by this pandemic. I would have never expected in my lifetime something like what Covid -19 has been; I am not able to work. I have no income whatsoever due to the Covid-19 pandemic . I am staying home helping my kid, especially being that my son has an eye situation, and an IEP. I see how affected my son is with all the changes and challenges.

This is why I along with 11, 000 families, supporters and 21 schools in over 10 Connecticut cities and towns will continue to advocate and fight hard for our kids, They have gone through enough!

Please make sure you fight with me for education equity and the expansion of quality educational opportunities in communities like ours.

I look forward to engaging with you in our upcoming meetings. It will be my pleasure to share further, what the opportunity for my son to attend a quality public charter school has meant to us and the impact this will have on his future.

Best,

Tayon Thompson