

March 9, 2021

Kayla Waters

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Good evening and thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Kayla Waters. I am a proud parent of Y'Anna Waters, a high honors 5th grader who attends Achievement First Hartford Elementary Academy. I am also someone who has volunteered her time during campaign seasons over the years to ensure we have the best people representing us at the Capitol.

It feels unreal submitting testimony in the middle of a pandemic, but that's exactly why I am doing it. This past year has been so hard for a lot of us and we are all doing the best we can. But do you know what's easy? Making sure ALL of our kids get what they need based on their needs no matter what kind of school their family chose from them. To me, that's a no-brainer. Covid has made it clear that there is a deep divide between the haves and have nots. Right now, we need to take bold and decisive steps to make that right. And there is no better or worthier place to start than by making sure our kids are learning on an equal playing field throughout the state of Connecticut.

My Y'Anna works so hard to maintain a straight-A average and make the Dean's List throughout the school year. She and her friends work so hard so that their dreams can come true to be whatever they want to be in life - and their teachers are the hardest working I've ever seen! Let's show them that our love and appreciation for them is bigger than politics. They MORE than deserve it.

Governor Lamont is calling for our public charter school babies, the majority of them black and brown with unlimited potential for greatness, to receive the same foundation amount as all other public school students. I ask that you do the same. After all, a strong foundation is the first necessary step to building something that will last.

Thank you for your time, and God Bless

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Appropriations Committee Hearing

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