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# CITY OF DANBURY

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Honorable Members of the Common Council  
City of Danbury, Connecticut

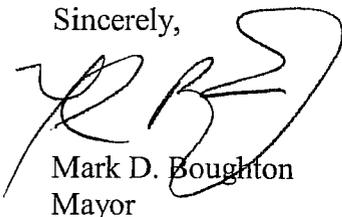
Dear Common Council Members:

The State of Connecticut has an inequitable and inefficient formula for state funding of local public education. Danbury faces increasing pressure from our state government who has not lived up to the promise of funding our schools. Education costs have continued to outpace the rate of inflation in almost every municipality in Connecticut. Over the last 8 years Danbury has increased its education spending by some 24 million dollars. Yet the state of Connecticut has only increased its contribution by just 2 million dollars. Cities and Towns are being forced to raise property taxes because the State of Connecticut continues to balance the budget on the backs of its cities and towns.

For the last several months I have been participating in meetings with mayors and CEO's from all over the state. We have decided to form a new organization, called the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding. It is our mission to force the legislature to deal with issue of school funding by scrapping the existing funding mechanism and develop a formula that is based on adequacy and not politics. We are embarking on a journey that will take time and could result in our coalition suing the State of Connecticut. Litigation is never easy, but it is indeed worth the effort. Connecticut's school children deserve nothing less.

I am requesting the Common Council to meet as a Committee of the Whole to discuss this important initiative. This meeting will allow you an opportunity to view a presentation from the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding. I look forward to the opportunity to answer your questions.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Boughton  
Mayor