

Chris O'Brien

From: Lauren Winsor <laurenjwinsor@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 6:54 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.
Subject: Support for HB 5749

Dear Finance Committee Members,

My name is Lauren Winsor, and I live at 25 Teakwood Court in East Greenwich. My state representative is Justine Caldwell. I am writing to express my strong support for **HB 5749**, which would provide categorical aid to East Greenwich schools currently facing an \$800,000 shortfall in state funding.

As a parent of three children attending Meadowbrook, Hanaford, and Cole, I have been deeply engaged in our school community. I currently serve as Vice President of the Meadowbrook PTG and have previously served as the Ways and Means Chair, helping to raise over \$60,000. These funds were used to cover essential needs—such as broken playground equipment, classroom rugs, and basic furnishings—needs that should be met by our tax dollars, not fundraising.

My first hand involvement has given me a clear view of the growing challenges East Greenwich schools face. Our students are learning in overcrowded, aging facilities with critical gaps in staffing and programming. One particularly urgent issue is the limited extracurricular and sports offerings at Cole Middle School. Compared to all other Rhode Island middle schools, Cole is at a stark disadvantage. This past winter, basketball was the only sport offered—yet 60 boys tried out for just 18 spots. Due to lack of funds, East Greenwich is unable to offer wrestling, tennis or track and field, sports that are standard in almost every other Rhode Island district. Sports and clubs are not optional extras; they are vital to our students' mental, physical, and social well-being, especially during such a formative period of their lives.

East Greenwich schools are at a tipping point, and we need your help to provide the basic educational support our children deserve. I urge you to support HB 5749 and any additional measures that would bring much-needed aid to East Greenwich.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lauren Winsor