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March 23, 2021

Melissa McCaw
Secretary
Connecticut Office of Policy and Management
450 Columbus Boulevard
Hartford, CT 06103

RE: Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Funding and Endowed Academies

Dear Secretary McCaw,

I write to you to inquire about the State of Connecticut's plan regarding the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) fund allocated to the State by the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 133) as well as the State's plan to provide relief to its endowed academies in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, the recently-passed *American Rescue Plan Act* also provides an additional \$2.75 billion through the EANS program, including \$15.27 million for the state of Connecticut.

As you know, Connecticut has three endowed academies, two of which are located in the Second District: Woodstock Academy and Norwich Free Academy. The third, The Gilbert School, is located in Winsted. While these schools are considered to be "local education agencies" by the Connecticut State Department of Education for the purpose for reporting to the federal government, they do not receive Title I funding, thereby rendering them ineligible to receive any relief from the second and third rounds of allocations from the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund.

The Connecticut State Department of Education has confirmed to my office that it will not be providing relief to Connecticut's endowed academies using EANS funding, but was working on a plan to provide funding to these unique institutions. Can you clarify the State's reasoning for not using the EANS funding to assist the endowed academies? Has the State of Connecticut finalized that plan? What funding source will be used to provide relief to the endowed academies? Like public schools that have continually received ESSER funds through the federal relief bills (CARES ACT, H.R. 133 and American Rescue Plan), these institutions have also experienced increased financial impact as they purchased PPE and incurred other COVID-19 expenses necessary to keep their students and staff safe.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress

