

VIA EMAIL:

September 25, 2019

Office of Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Speaker of House Joe Aresimowicz
Legislative Office Building Room 4105
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Senate President Martin M. Looney
Legislative Office Building Room 3300
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Senate Republican Leader Len Fasano
Legislative Office Building Room 3402
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

House Republican Leader Themis Klarides
Legislative Office Building Room 4200
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Request for Special Session to Repeal Public Act 19-117 section 183, and 184-188 pertaining to the Partnership for Connecticut Inc. secret Dalio Deal also known as a Philanthropic Enterprise

Dear Governor Ned Lamont , Majority and Minority Legislative Leadership

On behalf of the Connecticut Parents Union (CTPU), and concerned taxpayers, voters and parents of Connecticut, we are requesting a special session be called to repeal Public Act 19-117 section 183, and 184-188.

As Connecticut taxpayers, voters and parents, we believe that it is critical to repeal those sections, the Partnership for Connecticut Inc. in order to protect the public interest in the openness and ability to retain *public* control over our *public* school system for the sake of our *public school children* for the following concerns:

- Despite its quasi-public appearance, the enabling legislation has declared the Partnership for Connecticut Inc. to not be deemed a governmental entity
- As a consequence of this designation, the conduct of this entity in carrying out its policies and objectives will not be subject to freedom of information requests from the public and parents
- Relinquishing of educational policy setting to this private entity that is not answerable to the public or parents means that educational rights of Connecticut school children may not be protected

There is no accountability regarding the rights of parents and students under the Federal Educational Rights & Privacy Acts (FERPA) and HIPPA when a non-governmental entity that is not subject to FOI can have potentially unlimited access to private student records

There has been no analysis regarding whether the receipt of federal education funds, such as under Title I, or IDEA could be jeopardized by potential conflicts in policy goals of this nonpublic entity.

In closing, your role as a legislature is to represent the people of this state, the parents and students who are depending on you to make responsible decisions on our behalf. Your role is not to allow private entities to usurp your governing authority to hide what should be an open and honest public process just for the sake of a monetized “gift” with nontransparent strings attached.

Please remember the voters who elected you to represent their interest demand you do just that - represent the public’s interest.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn E. Samuel,
President and Founder
Connecticut Parents Union
Mobile: (203)-443-3203