

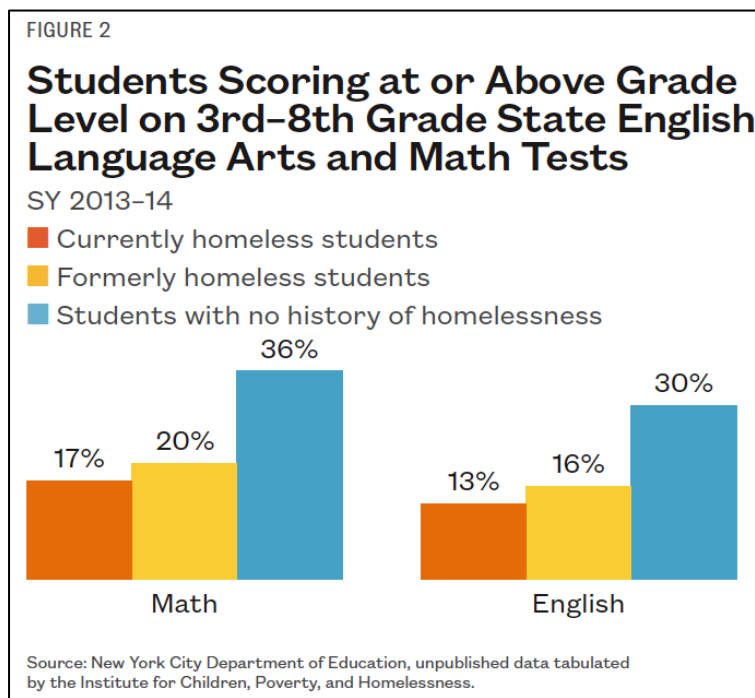
Dear Housing Committee,

I am a pediatrician who works in New Haven, CT and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. These are my personal views and do not reflect those of my employer.

I am writing to **strongly support** H.B. 6554 (Raised) – An Act Appropriating Funds for Certain Homeless Programs

The American Academy of Pediatrics has published a policy statement outlining the many negative health outcomes children face as a result of housing insecurity or homelessness.

Children who are housing insecure are **2.5 times more likely** to have health problems and **3 times more likely** to have severe health problems when compared to children who are not homeless. Specifically, they are also at increased risk of multiple infectious such as ear infections, asthma, malnutrition, obesity, injuries and accidents, poorer school performance (image below), and speech and language deficits.



Therefore, increased funds to address housing insecurity in CT is a critical action which will protect the health and wellbeing of children in CT.

Thank you for considering my testimony. Please reach out with questions.

Sincerely,

Molly Markowitz, MD FAAP

Chair, Advocacy Committee

CT American Academy of Pediatrics Chapter

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