

December 2, 2021

Senator Martin Looney
President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Matt Ritter
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Legislative Office Building, Room 4106
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Looney and Representative Ritter:

We are writing to request an immediate bipartisan public hearing to seek answers from the executive branch on the process and protections currently in place overseeing the distribution of federal COVID-19 relief funds.

We share the same goals. We want transparency and accountability when it comes to taxpayer dollars and we want to help the most vulnerable. People have a right to know how their money is being spent and should have guarantees that their tax dollars are making it where they are intended to go to help populations struggling the most in every community.

Recent allegations of improper and fraudulent use of COVID-19 relief funds are alarming, infuriating, and raise serious questions about the process and protections overseeing the distribution of federal COVID-19 relief funds. The Connecticut General Assembly's Appropriations Committee must immediately turn their attention to safeguarding COVID19 relief funding.

A public hearing is a first step, and an important one. The pandemic created unprecedented challenges for Connecticut families, and these funds are supposed to be helping people who are sick, hungry, and in need. It is infuriating to hear that anyone is allegedly cutting the bread line and misdirecting these funds. It raises serious questions about what safeguards are in place to protect these dollars and ensure they are helping the most people during these difficult times.

We ask that lawmakers hold this hearing to seek answers to our questions. What were the checks and balances that the money the state was entrusted with actually went to the purpose of helping people? Additional questions are available here:

[https://ctsenaterepublicans.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/102121-OPM-COVID-19 relief funds-West-Haven.pdf](https://ctsenaterepublicans.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/102121-OPM-COVID-19%20relief%20funds-West-Haven.pdf).

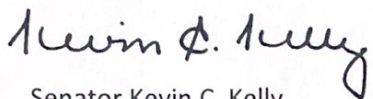
Senator Looney and Representative Ritter

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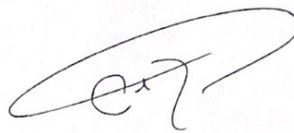
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We are asking for something simple – answers and transparency. A public hearing is the first step to rebuild public trust, to restore confidence, and to ensure the proper protective policies are in place that promote equity and compliance with the law.

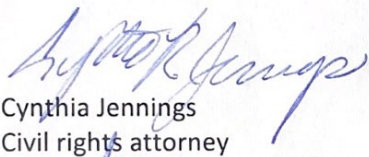
Sincerely,



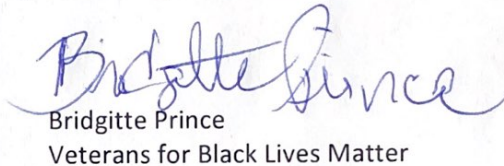
Senator Kevin C. Kelly
Senate Republican Leader



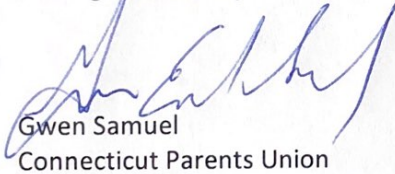
Senator Paul M. Formica
Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore



Cynthia Jennings
Civil rights attorney

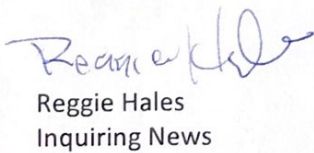



Bridgitte Prince
Veterans for Black Lives Matter



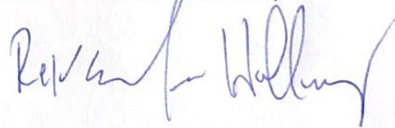
Gwen Samuel
Connecticut Parents Union

Antonia Edwards
Solidarity



Reggie Hales
Inquiring News

Rev. Ernestine Holloway



cc: Governor Ned Lamont