



Public Hearing Testimony

Speaker:

REP AMANN

Date:

3-12-07

Bill Number:

1408

State of Ct

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
JAMES A. AMANN

EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, March 12, 2007

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1408
An Act Concerning Charter Schools**

Speaker Amann (118th District- Milford) strongly supports increasing the student enrollment at existing charter schools, establishing a new charter school accountability system and enabling the expansion of proven, effective charter schools to new school sites as included in HB 1408.

Good afternoon, Representative Fleischmann, Senator Gaffey, Representative Hovey and Senator Herlihy. Thank you very much for raising **HB 1408 An Act Concerning Charter Schools**. Due to a scheduling conflict, I am unable to attend today's hearing personally, but strongly write to urge you to continue Connecticut's successful experiment with charter schools in raising student achievement.

Having worked personally with many successful charter school teams previously, I am excited and encouraged by the goals of HB 1408. Several of Connecticut's charter schools have done wonders for our students - raising student achievement, drastically increasing graduation and college enrollment rates in some of our neediest communities. It is imperative that we build upon these efforts and continue to close the achievement gap.

These successful charter school models should be utilized in new communities with students in need and equally deserving of educational opportunity. HB 1408 enables the expansion of existing charter schools to new sites, plus expands the schools' enrollments at original sites. Both are important initiatives to better prepare our students for the future and provide them with the skills they need. In addition, this bill establishes a new accountability system that lends transparency to our schools as well as helps parents and educators make more informed decisions for students' future education needs.

I believe this is an excellent opportunity for more students to fulfill their potential by improving access to quality education that we cannot afford to pass up.

Thank you very much for your time today and consideration of charter school funding and expansion in the coming weeks.