

Senate Bill 1408: "An Act Concerning Charter Schools"

Volcy Pierre-Louis-8th Grader- Trailblazers Academy

My name is Volcy Pierre-Louis and I am speaking on behalf of Trailblazers Academy and the entire charter school community in Connecticut in support of Senate Bill 1408

Charter schools across Connecticut have achieved great success.

I come from a large family. I am one of four brothers who have attended Trailblazers Academy. All of us are better students for going to a school that is smaller, more structured and focused on catching us up to be successful in high school. I am about to graduate in 3 months. I know I am better prepared as a student having gone to a charter school.

I know I don't understand all of the politics involved in the decisions being made today. I do know that this past year I have learned everything from how to find the radius and circumference of a circle to why the United States was involved in the Cold War. What I have come to learn is that for some reason as a charter school student I have less of a dollar amount attached to me than students at other public schools. Why this is true, I do not understand.

I believe that all students deserve a great public school experience. I know that my school can rise to the challenge of Senate Bill 1408.

One of my teachers, Mr. Baker, is forced to spend some of his time raising money for the school instead of raising achievement in my class. It also means that many charter schools lack the money for gym and cafeteria space but most importantly the money to hire the best teachers in the world.

I am personally excited that I will see in my young life an African-American and woman run for the Presidency.

I hope that you all give us the opportunity to prove to you that the accountability system that is proposed will strengthen the type of education that my three brothers and I were able to get at Trailblazers Academy.

Thank you for your time.

Public Hearing Testimony *Am-Speaking*
Speaker:
Volcy Pierre Louis

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