

Senate Bill 1408: An Act Concerning Charter Schools

Hello,

My name is Amarylis DeJesus and I am a 2006 graduate of Trailblazers Academy and I am currently a 9th grade student at Stamford Academy. I am also happy to report to you that I met the goals for CMT in all categories in the 8th grade. When my family and I were considering high school we looked at the larger high schools. I must admit that I was tempted to go and in fact it was my first choice. However, my sister is a junior at Stamford Academy and my mother convinced me that I should go as well. I am here to tell you how happy I am at this school. Nowhere else would I get what I am getting here. Our classes are small and intense. We take classes in all of the normal subjects, but we concentrate on CAPT preparation and Literacy. Our teachers tell us that literacy is the key to unlocking the door to success. I believe them not only because they are smart, but because they are like family.

Just visit our school one day and you will see. As we walk into school in the morning we are greeted by teachers with hand shakes, hugs and well wishes. Our Family Advocates meet with us every week and visit us at our home. They pick us up when we miss the bus, dry our tears when we are sad and celebrate our victories. Teachers make themselves available for help whenever it is needed. They will help us on their lunch hour, before school, or well into the evening. As a matter of fact, you should come to the school at night; we are as busy then as we are during the day.

While I know that the bigger schools have many things we can't have, we have one thing they will never have; Love.

I truly believe that all of the teachers, from Mr. McGuire, the Principal, to the custodian, Mr. Hill, care about me and my family.

We appreciate the money you give us and I hope I have demonstrated that we are worth the investment.

Thank you.

Public Hearing Testimony Speaker:
Amarylis DeJesus

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