

Testimony of Teresa Gambrell
Parent at Common Ground High School,
358 Springside Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515
Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee
March 24th, 2011

Honorable Chairs, Members of the Appropriation Committee:

My name is Teresa Gambrell and I am a parent that pulled my daughters out of the public school system. The charter school I chose was Common Ground High School. This is a school that I say has really helped my daughters excel. My oldest daughter was a graduate of the class of 2010 and my youngest is now in the 10th grade. Common Ground has a great staff the cares about all the children and the need for a good education. This is a small school doing big things, and they deserve to receive the same amount of money that the public schools receive for each student. Charter schools have to purchase materials just like public schools in order to teach our children.

You should not put a price tag on the education of the children. The important issue here is that charter schools are schools; they are not corporate institutions where monetary value is most important. These are children, our future leaders of this world. If they are short-changed now by not having the money they need to get them further and enrich their education, they will always be losing out on something, whether they actually realize it or not. I ask of you to stop thinking about this situation as who's worth what per population but think about the fact that these are our children we are talking about; mine, yours, and your neighbors. All are created equal, all deserve a good education and it should not matter where they receive it.

Sincerely,

Teresa Gambrell