

Testimony of Samantha O'Brien
Student 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:

Good Afternoon. I stand here today to ask you for equal funding for charter schools. As you know charter schools only receive three fourths of the money that any other public district school receives. This is unfair and should be addressed so that every student is showed to be valued the same.

I have been going to a charter school for three years and I have loved every minute of it. It has been a wonderful experience. The moment I walked through the front doors I realized that the atmosphere is different than any other school I have seen. It is a place full of real world experience and hands on work; a school where there is support when needed and a challenge when necessary. At my charter school I have received individual attention from all the teachers and staff because their goal is for me to excel. Although teachers at other high school care about their students success it is impossible to grant them with the attention that they deserve because of sheer size. This does not happen at my school, no student is allowed to simply slip through the cracks. At my school, even with limited funding, I have been given unique opportunities that I would never receive at my district high school. Every person in my school gives all that they can so that I am granted the experiences and opportunities that will allow me to succeed. If we had the same funding as other high schools I can only imagine the possibilities that my school could offer.

I can only hope that other students will have the privilege to attend a charter school and experience all that they have to give. It would be unfortunate if charter schools had to close due to lack of funding. I ask you to implement student-based funding in Connecticut so that every student receives an equal share of money for their education. Thank you for your time.