

Testimony of Julius Bennett

AF Amistad High School Alumnus

Testimony submitted to the Appropriations Committee

February 21, 2013

My name is Julius Bennett. I am a member of Amistad High School's first graduating class. I stand here tonight on the shoulders of my fellow Amistad alumni, all of whom, for the last three years, have been accepted to college. I'm proud to be here with two other scholars that attend Amistad High School.

I am currently a junior at Bates College, in Maine. As I reflect back on what it meant to be a scholar at Amistad High, I am certain that I owe my success in college to the attention and assistance my teachers gave me over the years. My teachers believed in me, and helped me climb the mountain to college that all our parents will be talking about tonight. All the way through my last months at Amistad, I spent hours after school with my teachers, on everything from SAT prep to personal statement revisions. I would not be where I am today if it was not for the support of my Achievement First family.

I'm here because my twelve year old sister and other students deserve access to the same opportunities that I had. These opportunities are invaluable.

Tonight we are asking you reward all of Achievement First's hard working students by working to ensure that charter schools receive equitable and predictable funding.