

*Michael Maynard*

*New Haven Public School Parent*

*Testimony for Appropriations Hearing*

*Thursday February 21, 2013*

Good evening and thank you for joining us tonight. My name is Michael Maynard and I am a New Haven public charter school parent. I'm here tonight not just to advocate for my daughter, but for all kids across our state.

My daughter Dominique is currently a junior at Amistad High School.

There are almost 6,000 families across Connecticut seeking admission to public charter schools again next year. For every student our schools serve, there is a student on the city waiting list. Equitable funding for our schools will help them grow and serve these students. Last year's budget increase doesn't give us more money; it lets good schools serve MORE KIDS.

We need to provide our public charter schools with the funding they need to expand and provide more students with a quality educational choice, not cripple them by further cutting their funding. I have neighbors and family members who are desperate to attend a great public charter school, and I know that equitable funding is their only chance to do so.