

Talitha Coggins
Hartford Public School Parent
Testimony for Appropriations Hearing
Thursday February 21, 2013

Hello, my name is Talitha Coggins. I sit before you tonight as a parent of a PUBLIC school student. My son Zion attends Achievement First Hartford Academy, where he is learning every day. My sons' PUBLIC charter school has worked tirelessly with me to ensure that when my son struggles he is not setback; instead each obstacle he surpasses is a stepping stone to on a path to success in college.

Though success that cannot always be seen on a daily basis, I know that my son will be successful because he is being told every day that he can climb the mountain to college. He is held to a higher standard, academically and socially than he would be anywhere else in the Hartford public school system. There are no words that can adequately express what that means for my family and our future. But without access to sustainable funding, my child's school will have to make difficult choices about what services and resources to cut. I am here tonight to ask for your support on a budget that ensures no child has to miss out on this vital and enriching environment.