

**Dominique Maynard Michael Maynard  
Amistad High School Student  
Testimony for Appropriations Hearing  
Thursday February 21, 2013**

Good evening, my name is Dominique Maynard I am a junior at Amistad HS. I am a New Haven public school student.

All my life I have fought for my education, with the help of my parents and my school. When our Amistad community needed a new home for our high school, we encountered resistance. And it seems like every year we come back to here to this hearing room to fight for more funding. I don't mind advocating for Amistad, I am proud of my school and everything I've learned. I just wish things were different. I do not understand why my public school does not receive the equitable funding it deserves.

I attribute my success in school to two things: hard work, and my teachers. As I was preparing to speak tonight, I learned that many great charter school teachers sometimes don't receive raises or adequate pay because our schools are funded at a lower level. I know I am taught by some of the hardest-working teachers in the nation. They teach at a public school, and they should be paid equally for their efforts. In a time when everyone is looking for work, my school doesn't have the funding to hire as many great teachers as needed. For some scholars, a great public charter school can be the difference between success and failure, college and not completing high school. Please, provide us with equitable funding so we can recruit more great teachers from across the country to come work here in Connecticut.