

Testimony of Lashawn Robinson

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Good evening and thank you for allowing us to speak tonight. My name is Lashawn Robinson and I am a Hartford Public School parent.

~~My kids are scholars at Achievement First Hartford Academy. I'm here tonight not~~
just to advocate for my kids, but for ALL kids across our state.

All kids deserve the opportunity to attend a great school, no matter the color of their skin, how much money their parents make or where they live.

But right now, in my city, that's not happening. Almost half of Connecticut 3rd graders cannot read at grade level. In Hartford, one third of students fail to graduate high-school. That breaks my heart, and it's why I'm asking you to keep the promises you made in 2012.

I'm here tonight to thank the governor and state legislators for keeping their promises to ensure my kids and all kids have a chance at a great education.

Your commitment to create and fairly fund new public school options means my kids will be prepared for college and good careers when they graduate from AF Hartford High School.

Remember that charters are helping students who need it the most. Remember that we need to be patient when changing the lives of many children at once. These kinds of changes take time.

Thanks to you all, we're one step closer to making sure every kid gets what they deserve, an awesome school!