

**Hector Diaz
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My name is Hector Diaz and I reside at 34 Arthur St. Bridgeport, I am here to speak in favor and to obtain support for Raised Bill 1096, an Act Concerning Charter Schools.

This is a much needed bill that would help us to get a better understanding of both the benefits and detriments associated with Charter Schools.

There are just too many questions concerning the use of Public funds, that would be better served in our current Public School system. All our Public Schools should work for all our students.

According to information found in the New York Times "States have opened so many charter programs so quickly that they can barely count them, let alone monitor student performance." In Bridgeport charters are opening at an alarming rate considering there is currently no active study or legislation that binds them to the same regulations that exist in Public Schools, nor by the democratic processes that make it possible for citizens to pressure administrators, making them less accountable to the desires of their communities. Parent Advisory Committees provide an opportunity for parents to provide input into school policies.

The American Federation of Teachers states that "Charter schools spend a greater percentage of their resources on administration, less on infrastructure and provide fewer services than the public schools in the same districts. This in itself gives reason to the passage of the bill.

I would also expect the support of the Unions on this particular bill as Charters have been found to actively resist teacher unionization and have been a force in pushing out Labor Unions. It is common for teachers at charters to be "at will" employees with no job protections.

WE MUST MAKE OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM THE BEST IT CAN POSSIBLY BE, IF WE CONTINUE TO DIVERT FUNDING THAT GOAL BECOMES MUCH HARDER TO ATTAIN. ALL SCHOOLS SHOULD WORK FOR ALL STUDENTS. PLEASE PASS THE BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE AND HELP TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR FUTURE!