

Khadijah Muhammad  
Testimony before the Connecticut General Assembly Education Committee  
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Good evening members of the Education Committee. My name is Khadijah Muhammad and I am a resident of New Haven. I am a proud parent of four children. One is in nursing school, two are in college, and one in middle school. I have been here at the Capitol many times. Sometimes, I am advocating for my own children, but most times I'm here in advocating for other people's children. As I mentioned, I only have one child still below college age, so I have the time and capacity and desire in my heart to speak up for all of the children in my city and my state.

I'm here today to urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1096, which would prevent any new public charter schools from opening in our state for the next two years. Charter schools are helping students and families, and my children and I are living proof. Not only are my two college students graduates of Achievement First, a public charter school, but their educational journeys inspired me to continue my own education. My children, and their commitment to education, are the reason I now have my degree.

There are many, many schools in our state that are not serving our children well. So, if a new school with a proven record of success wants to open up another school to serve our children, we should not stand in the way of that. Please do not stand in the way of great options for families like mine. There are 3,600 children on waitlist for charter schools in our state, and that demand should not be ignored.

Two years is too long to make any child wait for access to great options. Please don't put our children on the backburner. Please don't ask them to wait. Our children only get one shot at their education and they need us to fight for them. We need more great public school options in Connecticut, no matter whether they are district, magnet or charter schools.

I am here to urge you, please do what's right for our children. Oppose Senate Bill 1096.

Thank you.