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Testimony before the Connecticut General Assembly Education Committee
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Good afternoon members of the Education Committee. My name is Ahjani Llewellyn, and I am in 10th grade at Achievement First Hartford High. I am here to speak against the bill, Senate Bill 1096, that would stop new charter schools from opening, because I believe this is very unfair and more kids from Hartford need better schools.

I started going to a public charter school in 5th grade, and it pretty much changed my life. Before I came to Achievement First, when I went to my old school, I was a child who was just sitting in a chair. My work was mediocre. I wasn't applying myself.

Now, it's totally different. I'm standing out. I'm on the Dean's List. I just got accepted to a summer program at Phillips Exeter. It has been an amazing experience for me.

Now, I know where I want to go and where I want to be—and that's college. I want to be successful in life and I know that I am on my way.

There are so many kids just like me in Hartford, but instead of attending a school they want to go to like I do, they are on waiting lists.

There are never going to be enough seats at the schools that exist now and there are too many people in Hartford who are waiting for seats at these charter schools. They've been waiting for so long and they keep waiting and waiting and waiting. In the meantime, they are going to schools that are not setting them up for success. We definitely shouldn't stop more good charter schools from opening. We should be doing the opposite and starting more great charter schools.

Don't make students wait any longer. Oppose this bill. Thank for your listening.