

**Cynthia Sherard Testimony**  
**Connecticut Education Committee**  
**March 19, 2015**

Hello. My name is Cynthia Sherard and my son is an 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Common Ground High School student. Having seen the benefits a charter school provides my child, I am here today to implore you to oppose the proposed charter school moratorium.

All across Connecticut, there are schools are not preparing children to be successful adults. It is clear that the system we have in place is not working for every student. Parents want more options for their children, and charter schools are one of those options.

As a charter school parent, I can speak first-hand to the fact that charters work. Common Ground has done incredible things for my child. I rest easy knowing my child goes to school in a safe and productive environment. Common Ground is innovative in the way it educates my child, and the school has outperformed the New Haven District on the state's math and reading exams. I know that in attending a charter school, my child is prepared for college and life after.

I was lucky enough to see my child get into a charter school, but I know that option isn't there for many. For some, they are stuck on waiting lists, hoping another quality option arrives. A moratorium on charter schools would mean thousands of families in cities like New Haven would be denied the opportunity to send their children to a great school.

Great school options are not readily available in communities across Connecticut. It is only right that the legislature hear the voices of the thousands of parents demanding a better choice for their child. There is nothing more important than receiving a world-class education, but imposing a two-year moratorium on new charters means too many children won't get that chance.

The reality is that many families in our state cannot wait. We need your help to make sure parents in New Haven and around Connecticut have the chance to send their child to a great school. Please oppose this charter school moratorium and ensure that families have the options they long for.

Thank you for your time.