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Thank you Chairman Doherty, members of the committee, ladies and gentleman. My name is Adi Solomon and I am a sixth-grader at Southwest Charter School, a public school where you can have fun, and learn in a fun environment. The mission of the school is to teach kids in the way we learn best. They help us explore the natural world--that's called place-based learning--and we learn to be good citizens in the community. Class size is also small. The biggest class is around twenty two to twenty four kids. This gives kids a chance to learn more efficiently than they would in a regular public school, where class sizes are thirty to forty, thus making the noise level louder, which in turn makes it harder to concentrate, and the teachers' job much more difficult. I hope in the future other schools can have smaller classes, and also give kids more chances to do field work.

For instance, did you know that Oregon got one of the worst report cards in the country in teaching civil rights in the schools? Recently at Southwest

The talking stick means that it is your turn to talk and everyone else has to listen. People give their solutions, then the person with the problem chooses two of the solutions and we go on. This makes us part of a community that cares about each other and teaches us to care in the world. Southwest Charter is the best school I have ever attended and it has the best system for teaching young people to be good citizens in a rapidly evolving world. I wish all kids could have this experience.

Thank you.