

## SB: 29 “An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes”

Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz, and honorable members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

My name is Alicia Piselli. I am a former public high school teacher and mother of three children at Saint Mary School in Milford. I am writing to testify in support of SB29 and to request that funds for school security be made available to non-public schools.

After the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, improving school security has understandably become a priority for many school districts throughout our state and our nation. Governor Malloy has announced that grants in excess of 15 million dollars will be made available to public schools; however, none of this money has been offered to Catholic schools.

Shouldn't ALL Connecticut schools be made as safe as possible? Shouldn't ALL Connecticut students be made a priority? Isn't nursing and transportation funded by the State? So then, the next logical question is: why would school security not be funded? This is not a question of education, curriculum, or religion. This is a public safety issue and ALL students deserve the safest possible learning environment, regardless of where they attend school. Moreover, I believe the State of Connecticut has an ethical obligation to do all they can to protect ALL Connecticut students.

I humbly ask and fervently urge you to support SB 29, and allow our Catholic schools access to the security grant funding available to public schools in Connecticut. Please help us to keep all of Connecticut's students safe.

Respectfully submitted,

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