



Mary C. Roberts
Director

Testimony of Amy McKearney
CT Federation of Catholic School Parents
Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding
March 13, 2014

Senate Bill 29. *"An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes."*

Good Morning, Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and other distinguished members of the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding, my name is Amy McKearney and I am a member of the CT Federation of Catholic School Parents. I currently have two children attending St. Mary Magdalen School. My youngest will follow suit of her sisters, and start school in the fall, when she is old enough. I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments in support of amending section 9 of Bill 29, *An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and other Purposes*.

I grew up in Newtown, Connecticut, and currently live in Thomaston, Connecticut. A few reasons why I am writing to you today are because of the events that unfolded on December 14, 2012, and the funds that have already been distributed to public schools for security improvements because of the events in Newtown. When I grew up, we did not have lock-downs or have to practice them, we did not have school cameras, or police presence either. We did not worry about our safety while in school. Children today should be able to feel safe, secure and protected while attending school.

Since Governor Dannel Malloy has announced public school grants of over \$15 million dollars, this is a clear message to me, that the Governor supports safety for our all our children.

After December 14, 2012, I was happy to see so many schools react quickly to modify the schools to protect our children. My children's schools made significant progress on building a safer school environment by adding video cameras, bullet proof windows, and improving the entrance to protect the staff and the children. I am very appreciative of the nursing and transportation services entitlements to all of Connecticut's school children. Those services go a long way in helping our Connecticut schools and families. Now the time has come for safety to be a priority for all Connecticut school children too.

I am humbly asking for you to please support an amendment to section 9 of Bill 29 and allow our Catholic schools access to the security grant funding available to public schools in Connecticut, to have all Connecticut school's safety be a priority as well.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Amy McKearney