



Mary C. Roberts  
Director

Legislative Testimony  
Finance Committee

SB 29 An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State  
For Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes

March 13, 2014

Carolyn J. Malon

Senator Fonfara, Representative Widlitz and Members of the Finance Committee, my name is Carolyn Malon and I am the parent of two Catholic School students. I am here to testify in support of SB 29, and to request that funds for school security be made available to Catholic and other non-public schools.

SB 29 includes an amount of up to ten million dollars which will be allocated for grants to schools in Connecticut for the purpose of security upgrades. I am here to request that this grant funding be made available to Catholic and other non-public schools as well.

Many Catholic schools in the state are struggling financially. At the same time, the principals at these schools recognize the importance of maintaining a safe learning environment for their students, and understand that there will be significant financial cost to make upgrades. These school leaders realize that they may have to make the difficult choice of cutting other area of spending in order to protect their students.

The State of Connecticut has a proud history of providing funding to Catholic schools for vital services such as transportation and nursing staff. I believe that school security is just as vital. Catholic schools students are at the same risk level for security breaches as students in public schools. Shouldn't the safety of ALL Connecticut students be our priority? All students deserve a safe learning environment, regardless of which school they attend. It is my firm belief that the legislators of the State of Connecticut have a moral obligation to ensure that students in Catholic and other non-public schools have the same security as students in our public schools. I urge you to support SB 29, and further, to please allow our Catholic schools access to this vital funding for security upgrades. Please help us to keep ALL of Connecticut's students safe.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

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