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**Testimony in Support of  
S.B. No. 318, 'An Act Concerning Private School Transportation'**

Before the Education Committee

March 2, 2016

As a parent of a student at St. Michael School in Pawcatuck, CT, I support S.B. No. 318.

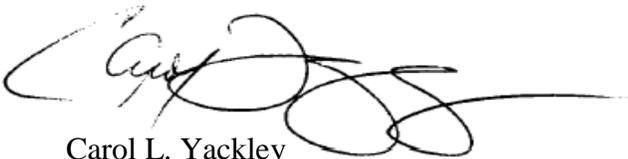
St. Michael School is such an important part of our lives that provides not only intellectual growth but growth of faith and spirit to allow them to become kind and compassionate adults. The community with which they are educated in is such a safe and caring environment and they both have thrived. With declining demographics in our state and recent school closures, it is important for access to the Catholic School education to be available to all children. Bus transportation would assist my family especially as we live outside the current busing area for St. Michael School and it would alleviate the logistical machinations we have today in who can pick up to get my children to where they need to go for their after-school commitments. Today because we live outside the busing area, they are not even able to take the bus home with a friend.

Allowing reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will help your school and it is crucial to keep our urban schools open and accessible to students whose schools have closed in neighboring towns.

Please keep access to our schools alive and viable for all children by allowing state reimbursements for inter-district transportation for K-8 nonpublic schools.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol L. Yackley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carol L. Yackley