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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 the proud parent of a first grader at St. Mary-St. Michael School in Derby, I support S.B. No. 318.

As the graduate of Catholic schools, I know how invaluable it is to have an education that is based in values and focused on love for my God, my community and myself. For many years, Catholic schools have helped children develop into important contributors to our towns, states and country. Not to mention, these schools save states' tens of thousands of dollars each year by educating children outside of the expensive public education system.

Sadly, there is a decline in enrollment in these schools due to economic circumstances. I believe the state should do all that it can to help parents send their children to a school that not only provides students with an exceptional education but focuses on the values that they hold dear.

Please allow a reimbursement to towns who voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town as this magnifies the important work of the Catholic educational system, sustains it, and benefits us all.

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

Sincerely,  
Christian Meagher