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Testimony of Anne LaMonica
Associate Director for Education
Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference

Education Committee
March 2, 2016
Legislative Office Building, Room 2C

SB 318, An Act Concerning Private School Transportation

Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann, and Members of the Education Committee:

My name is Anne LaMonica, and I am the Associate Director for Education at the Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference.

The students, parents, teachers and administrators of Connecticut's 110 Catholic schools are grateful to the members of the Education Committee for raising and considering Senate Bill 318.

Many years ago, the Connecticut Legislature enacted a successful program that provides towns with financial assistance to help children obtain intra-town bus transportation to nonpublic schools, including Catholic schools. Recently, however, because of changing demographics and changing financial circumstances, many of our local Catholic schools are transforming into regional schools.

As a result, we greatly appreciate the Education Committee's consideration of SB 318, which has the purpose of expanding the bus transportation opportunities to inter-town transportation opportunities.

Our schools wish to educate the whole child, of any creed or ethnicity, and encourage a plurality of thought. As a result, they share common goals with other nonpublic and public educators alike. Accordingly, our schools are amenable to sharing current bus routes of regional boards of education, vocational schools, and other nonpublic schools

as a means of creating and finding efficiencies. Routes overlap, and such duplication of effort is unnecessary.

Everyone wins if students have access to our schools. Our families are happy. Our teachers, administrators, coaches and employees are happy. Our towns are happy, because our children will not be transferring into public schools, which would cause an unexpected increase in expenses for already stretched public school budgets.

Thank you for your support of SB 318.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne LaMonica". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Anne LaMonica,
Associate Director for Education

Contact: Anne LaMonica, (860) 593-3163; alamonica@ctcatholic.org