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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 the parent of a daughter that attends St Mary’s School(SMS) in Ridgefield CT, I support S.B. No. 318.

My daughter has been a student there for the past 4 years and the school has been the perfect fit for her. It is a relatively small school where the teachers and faculty provide the exact attention my daughter needs based on her personality and skills. That in combination with the Catholic education which we value so very much makes SMS the only choice for our family. As we live in Danbury CT, and SMS is located in Ridgefield CT, we drive our daughter both ways each day. We made the choice to live in Danbury where the cost of housing is more affordable realizing that there would be a commitment to drive our daughter each and every day for 8 years. While we are making that work, the lack of transportation makes it a challenge given that my wife and I both work.

A reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will help our school. 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,

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