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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

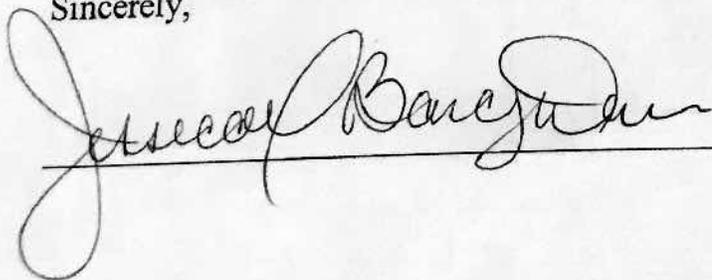
As a parent at St. Edward School in Stafford Springs, I support S.B. No. 318.

St. Edward School has served the youth of Stafford and its surrounding communities for over 140 years. Our school produces students who are well-prepared academically and have grown in citizenship and faith. Our students move on to make a difference in the world.

Sadly, Catholic schools have been closing at an alarming rate in the State of CT. In our own diocese 10 schools have closed within the last 8 years. Our own St. Edward School continues to struggle with enrollment, and continually searches for new ways to attract families who desire a Catholic elementary education. During any given year our school draws students from as many as 10 area towns. The parents of these children make this work only through great dedication and sometimes hardship. Inter-district transportation would not only ease the burden on these families but would allow for many families to consider this valuable education who previously could not manage the transportation.

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

Sincerely,

  
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