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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 and a teacher at Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, I support S.B. No. 318.

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic School plays a very important role to so many people. The Pre-K to grade 8 community, as well as the religious foundation, offer a special and positive alternative to public education. The over 400 students and their families that believe in our school and its core values should not be penalized by losing bus access.

Offering busing to the students is essential to a school system. The majority of students at most schools ride the bus and it is no different when attending our school. These students have the right to free bus transportation because their parents pay taxes. If they attended their local public school, this would be a non-issue.

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

Sincerely,



Kelly Chesson

Kerry Lambert
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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 and teacher of Abigail Lambert at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School*, I support S.B. No. 318.

My children both started out in catholic school until their school closed. From there they went on to a Magnet and Public schools until the 6th grade and high school. It was during my daughters sixth grade year that she asked me if she could go back to a catholic school. When asked why, she told me she missed being at a good school academically and where she can share and grow in her faith openly. She transferred that fall to St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School where she will graduate 8th grade this year.

There are many more children like my daughter that love being in a faith base school but unfortunately don't have access to busing because of demographics, therefore having to settle for a local public school.

By allowing a reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will allow these children and families to go to a faith base school. That being said, it is crucial to keep our urban schools open and accessible to students whose schools have closed in neighboring towns.

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

Sincerely,

Kerry Lambert

