

February 28, 2016

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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 of a student at Our Lady of Mercy School in Madison, CT, I support S.B. No. 318. My daughter has grown tremendously in her first three years of Catholic School. Not only is she receiving an outstanding education, but she is in a safe, nurturing environment that emphasizes positive values and a responsibility to give back to others. I know that this environment will help her, and our younger daughter (who will begin her education at OLM in the fall of this year), to succeed in their future studies, careers, and lives as they become thoughtful citizens and good neighbors.

Due to recent closures, access to quality Catholic education is not readily available to all children. Distances to schools inhibit many. Living outside of Madison, CT ourselves, inter-district bus transportation is an important option for my family. Allowing reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town, such as my daughter, will help our schools to maintain their enrollment and students to receive the quality educations desired by their parents.

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 yours,

Kirsten Kane