



Testimony in Support of

S.B. No. 318, 'An Act Concerning Private School Transportation'

Before the Education Committee

March 2, 2016

As an administrator at St. Ann Academy in Bridgeport, I support S.B. No. 318. Transportation makes it possible for more than fifty of my students to attend the academy. It is essential that bus transportation be maintained so that working parents who rely on this mode of transportation can continue to send their children to St. Ann.

The transportation of my students is beneficial to the City of Bridgeport as well as to my students and their parents. If these fifty students and the students at the other three Catholic schools in Bridgeport cannot continue to offer transportation, over 250 current Catholic school students would need to be assimilated into the public school system.

Allowing a reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students who live out of the city would allow students the opportunity to enroll at a school in the City of Bridgeport. Our urban schools must remain viable and open to serve the needs of children who cannot and would not be served well in the city or town in which they reside. Inter-district transportation would allow children from neighboring Stratford to be educated at St. Ann Academy.

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,

Patricia A. Griffin

