



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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REPRESENTATIVE DAVID BARAM
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TESTIMONY OF REPRESENTATIVE DAVID BARAM, 15TH DISTRICT
Education Committee Public Hearing
March 1st, 2016

Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischman, and Members of the Education Committee,

I am writing in connection with Raised Bill 318 entitled, 'An Act Concerning Private School Transportation'.

There are many non-public schools that have to deal with the transportation of students that pose logistic, security, and financial challenges. These children are Connecticut residents who add to the fabric of our diversity and strengthen the educational excellence of our State.

At a time when we are looking to maximize regional efficiencies and lower costs for our State and Towns, it seems like an appropriate opportunity to pass legislation that encourages cooperation in student transportation.

Accordingly, I would propose that the Education Committee either expand Bill 318 or create a companion Bill that would provide for an expanded paradigm to encourage public school transportation cooperation with nonpublic schools.

In particular, I would like to suggest legislation that encourages public school systems and quasi-public regional school systems like CREC, to accept nonpublic students on their transportation systems, when there is space and routes serve schools in geographic proximity. If the nonpublic school was required to contribute a percentage of the nonpublic per pupil cost, we could achieve the following benefits and efficiencies:

1. Towns would have an additional source of income by accepting nonpublic school students to fill vacant bus space for schools in neighboring areas.

2. Nonpublic schools might save expense by utilizing public school transportation when appropriate.

3. Security can be enhanced by reducing the number of school buses traveling on our local roads, and ensuring that students are transported safely; and

4. The State might realize savings if the public schools and nonpublic schools are able to save transportation costs that may be partly reimbursable by the State.

Therefore, I ask that the Education Committee support legislation by either amending Bill 318 or drafting a compatible Bill, that would encourage public and regional school transportation cooperation with the nonpublic schools.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Baram". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Representative David Baram