

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, Amaia Nichols, at St Ann Academy, I support S.B. No. 318.

St Ann Academy is an amazing place for learning and is simultaneously shaping the spirit lives of our children. The school and church are a beacon of light in the Blackrock/Bridgeport Community.

With all of the worries and concerns we as parents are faced with sending our children out into the world, especially our city of Bridgeport, St Ann has provided relief to our heavy hearts.

At the current time, busing is only provided for those children whom live in the city of Bridgeport. While this covers some of the demographic of our school, there are still so many children whom are faced with not even being able to barely get to school because of lack of transportation. Personally speaking, my daughter as well as so many others, would benefit tremendously from the opportunity to be bussed to school. On top of alot of families struggling financially, yet still sacrificing to send their children to such a prestigious establishment such as St Ann, bus transportation would continue to allow so many families to afford schooling s little easier given the relief of other transportation costs.

Allowing a reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will immeasurably help our school. It is vital to keep our urban schools open and accessible to students, like my own, whose schools have closed in neighboring towns.

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,

Samantha Somerville