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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 at Saint Paul School, I whole-heartedly support S.B. No. 318.

We live in a town with a regarded school system and consider ourselves lucky. We chose to send our daughter to St Paul’s School in our town for a number of personal reasons. She is now in fourth grade and we are reminded every year that we made the right decision. Our daughter has flourished in that environment and is now widely regarded as a bright, well-adjusted young lady. She often receives compliments for her manners and willingness to help others. We feel her school environment reaffirms the lessons we teach at home.

It is certainly no secret that a number of Catholic Schools have closed recently. That is unfortunate. It also puts a strain on families that would choose a Catholic School environment but may not have one within their town. It is important that we afford the opportunity to all families by providing access to this kind of education.

Our daughter takes the bus every day, and it is a tremendous burden off of our family. She attended kindergarten in another town and we can attest how difficult it was to get her to and from school with having the bus as an option. Bus transportation seems like a small financial sacrifice for those families who wish to enroll in a Catholic School.

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,

Sean Kallaugher