



SS. Peter and Paul School

116 Beecher Avenue

Waterbury, Connecticut 06705

(203) 755-0881

The SS. Peter and Paul School Family ministers to students in pre-k to grade 8: encouraging actions that model Jesus.

- S Strengthens Catholic teaching through prayer and community service
- S Supports students' academic, spiritual and emotional needs
- P Promotes a safe and positive learning environment to an increasingly diverse population
- P Provides opportunities for family involvement in children's religious, academic and social lives.

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 two students at SS. Peter and Paul School, I support S.B. No. 318.

SS. Peter & Paul School is important to my family in many ways. For the very first time I entered the school I have felt apart of my children's education other than just at home. They have made education fun, exciting and enjoyable for all of us. The children, as well as the parents all feel like they are apart of the educational community and that their voices count for something.

Keeping and making access to Catholic Schools is very important to students and their families. We have had the pleasure of experience both and it just so happens to be that Catholic School is best best fit for my children. It is important for families and students to feel they have options in their education and their religious beliefs. My children love that they get to learn more about their religious beliefs in school. The enjoy being able to express that with their school friends. Catholic Schools leave the option for non catholics to learn about the catholic religion. Sharing and learning different religions and culture is a great experience and allows our children to be more open minded in the future.

My family benefits from the bus transportation to and from SS. Peter and Paul School. They go to school on the east end of Waterbury and I live on the north end. My work hours are scheduled for when they get on the bus and I am allowed to be home before the bus drops them off. If my family loses the busing to and from SS. Peter and Paul School I will be forced to find new employment, my children will lose out on a great education and we will have to move out of Waterbury or maybe even Connecticut just to keep up on basics.

Allowing a reimbursement to towns who voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will greatly help SS. Peter and Paul School. SS. Peter and Paul School is a great school to offer to the inter-district students. It shouldn't be about who is providing the best education of Waterbury, it should be Waterbury is providing the best education to everyone. It is very crucial to keep our urban schools open and accessible to students whose schools have closed in neighboring towns. Why not come together as a whole education community instead of trying to create two equal halves.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alicia E. Turner". A horizontal line is drawn above the signature.

Alicia E. Turner



SS. PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL

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As a parent of a student at SS. Peter and Paul School, I support S.B. No. 318.

Catholic Education in a safe and positive environment is very important to us a family. The close knit connections, positive role models and most importantly the quality and standards of education implemented is why my husband and I choose to financially sacrifice to fund our daughters educations.

Not only are Catholic Schools teaching morals and values to the 'religious;' rather, teaching these values and importance of citizenship to a demographic that reaches far beyond religion or ethnicity. The teaching model at a Catholic School is one that should be emulated throughout the teaching community and is important not only to me as a parent but to a nation that strongly depends on the contributions of our children for our futures.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

Betsy Tymosko