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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 St. Stephen School, I support S.B. No. 318.

Our school is very important to us, as it is the cornerstone behind our children's catholic education. The school provides the necessary foundation for our children's growth, both educationally, socially, and spiritually.

Given the declining demographics in our state and recent school closures, I find it of utmost importance to make access to Catholic Schools available to all children.

Allowing a reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will have a positive impact to St. Stephen School. It is crucial to keep our urban schools open and accessible to students whose schools have closed in neighboring towns.

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

Sincerely,

Antonio Testa