

Heather Haversat
95 Goodwill Ave
Meriden CT 06451
203-305-9097

**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 at St. Joseph School I support S.B. No. 318.

St. Joseph school is very important to me, my daughter and our family for many reasons. First in just less than a year I have seen major strides made within my daughter and her potential. This school is a family and so much more. The staff's dedication and understanding of each individual child and their families is beyond amazing and much needed in today's world.

It is so important to our family that we keep the access to Catholic Schools available to all children, especially in light of declining demographics in our state and recent school closures. We should have the choice to send our children to other schools besides the public school system. Those schools are so over populated which don't allow teachers to expose children to the full potential of a curriculum amongst other things that my child receives at St. Joseph.

I believe it is also very important that we have the choice to send our children to a school that offers us a better school environment, better student discipline, smaller class sizes, improved safety and more individualized attention for our children. It's also very important to me that prayer and Spiritual practices are part of my child's school experience, something that I know public schools can **NOT** provide. I also like the small classes, the family atmosphere and, for the elementary kids, the fact our principal and parish priest are out greeting them every morning, rain or shine.

Those are some of the things that are important to me, and you may have different priorities. That's OK. The beauty of having multiple educational choices is that schooling doesn't have to be one size fits all. But **PLEASE** don't take away our option to have this choice to provide better for our children.

However in order to have the above options there should be bus transportation. This doesn't directly affect me or my child however; if a parent doesn't have that option of help getting their child to school I can only foresee enrollment declining more, with parents being forced to send the children to a school not of their choosing. We should defiantly keep that option available to

help the working parents ensure their children have a safe way of getting to school while the parent is worry free on their way to work. Part of this help would be by allowing a reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town and will help our school directly as there are out of town children that attend.

In closing I just want to emphasize how crucial it is to keep our urban schools open and accessible to students 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Haversat". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right, crossing over the end of the name.

Heather Haversat

Proud Parent of St. Joseph Student