

March 1, 2016

Mrs. Linda Coppola
Principal, St. Mary-St. Michael School
14 Seymour Avenue
Derby, Connecticut 06418

Mrs. Coppola:

Thank you for informing me of S.B. No. 318. I live in Ansonia and know that part of my taxes support transportation to the public and private schools in our city. My daughter Aryanna has attended your school since third grade and has grown positively in every way. She has developed her religious spirit and fairness toward others that you emphasize throughout the school day, starting with prayer service first thing in the morning to set the tone for the school community. It has been important to me that my children receive a Catholic education, especially in this day where the news only brings bad news into our homes via TV. It is an expense well worth saving for, but having inter-district transportation paid for using my tax money would be fair and very helpful. It would perhaps allow other children from not only Ansonia but also from other surrounding towns and cities to attend your school, especially if having no transportation does not allow them to attend. Also, I wonder if the legislature might authorize grants to help with the expense of this service. I think that doing anything [possible to keep our Catholic schools open or to help those students whose Catholic school has closed to attend another existing Catholic school supports the family's right to choose a school for their children. I support the committee in the legislature that is discussing S.B. 318 and also am in agreement with the bill that they are considering.

Sincerely,

Eileen Ryan
Ansonia, Connecticut