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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 of a student at St. Gabriel School in Windsor, I support S.B. No. 318.

St. Gabriel School is a community diverse in nationality and religious affiliation. The school is extremely important to our family to ensure our son receives an education in a Christian atmosphere in which a student is prepared to excel in academic knowledge, right judgment and spiritual values. The school also has extremely high quality academic programs and has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon school and now a CT Green School. Currently the town does have students from outside the boundaries of Windsor.

As you are aware, enrollment in many school districts including schools of faith have declined in light of declining demographics in our state and recent school closures. Many schools of faith are also operating under very lean budgets.

Bus transportation helps us and nearly all who attend the school. It is a small price to pay for to help support our children. Allowing a reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will help our school (as now many parents who live out of town have to transport their children). This is crucial 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,



Marc Fusco, PhD