

Mitzchka and Rodney Ortiz
32 Two Mile Road
Farmington, CT 06032
203-910-8615 or 860-543-0468

**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 Jerika and Jovan Ortiz at St. Mary School Newington, I support S.B. No. 318.

St. Mary School is a great school and I value Catholic School education for my children having attended Catholic Schools from Preschool to High school. My children pray every night and have good moral values at 4 and 5 years old. St. Mary School is really a good school and the small sized classroom is beneficial for my children with the attention they receive in the classroom.

I am stressing the importance of keeping and making access to Catholic Schools available to all children, especially in light of declining demographics in our state and recent school closures.

Allowing a reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live out of town will help St. Mary school. It 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,

Mitzchka and Rodney Ortiz

203-910-8615 and 860-543-0468