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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 current and past student at St. Michael School, Pawcatuck, I support S.B. No. 318.

We chose St. Michael School for our children's education due to its rigorous curriculum and nurturing Catholic value-centered environment.

Our eldest son graduated from St. Michael School in 2015. Due to the outstanding preparation for high school he received at St. Michael School, he is currently succeeding in Advanced Placement classes in high school and achieving a 3.8 GPA. St. Michael School taught him respect and confidence, which helped him make new friends and have the confidence to join the Math Club, Tennis Team and Creative Writing Club.

Our youngest son is in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade and continues to outpace our expectations for academic and social learning at St. Michael School.

It is important to maintain and extend access to Catholic Schools to all children, especially in light of school closings and the decline of demographics in our state. Catholic schools stress the value of self-discipline and commitment to core values and education. The staff and faculty at Catholic schools act as role models who bring out the best in their students in academics, social values and skills.

Bus transportation for St. Michael School is currently limited to the town of Stonington. Allowing reimbursement to towns that voluntarily provide inter-district transportation to elementary school students that live outside of Stonington will ensure that the school maintains minimum enrollment and also increase the cultural diversity of our school.

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,

Richard and Leigh Teixeira

