

Testimony of

Cecile Perraud

Before the

Education Committee

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Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of the caps on class sizes proposed in Senate Bill 1093, which would take an important step in ensuring that classrooms are places where students can learn, and educators can teach.

I have been teaching World Languages for 27 years. In order to progress in a language, we need to devote a lot of time to speaking and interpersonal activities. Some years, my classes had up to 28 students, making it impossible to have all students participate meaningfully in these activities, as each student had on average 60 to 90 seconds to talk!! If for some reasons the computer lab equipment was not working in a few stations, students were also missing out on the opportunity to engage in challenging speaking activities the days we went to the language lab. Our numbers in some World Language classes are shrinking now, and it makes it so much more effective for them to progress nicely due to more opportunities to practice every day. My experience is in World Language, but it could easily apply to any classes and subjects. The smaller the class, the more time we have to devote individually to each student, and the more opportunities students have to engage in the activities. I hope you will consider capping the number of students per class.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

