

Testimony of

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Stamford Educator

Before the

Education Committee

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

I would like to share my support of the caps on class sizes proposed in Senate Bill 1093, which is essential in creating equitable classrooms for student learning. I am a teacher in Stamford Public Schools and would like to let you know why this is so important.

Right now, most of my classes have 29-30 students. Many of these classes have 10-13 students with IEPs (special education students), students with 504s, and ELL students (English learners). Large class sizes with high need students (as many disadvantaged districts experience) make it challenging to meet the needs of all students. We don't have time to work with every student during class, so some are neglected. This tends to be the regular education students whom we don't need to legally provide additional services to. We also don't have time to serve every one of the high need students during one class. The result is, honestly, poor teaching. When my classes are this large, I cannot give the feedback students need to improve. I cannot grade 150 essays in a timely fashion without ruining my life and mental health. Even 25 is too many students in one class, 15-20 is the ideal, but we have to be realistic that there aren't enough teachers out there, nor enough money. Capping class sizes at 25 is the bare minimum. Even this would mean 25 less students in our case load, the equivalent of an entire extra class by this new standard. Something is better than nothing here, and it is in the best interest of students to have teachers who can give them the attention they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.