

Testimony of

Erin Bernard

Glastonbury Educator

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 in Connecticut for over 17 years at both the high school and middle school levels. I now teach at a middle school, where the needs of students both pre- and post-pandemic continue to grow both behaviorally and academically. To address increasing needs for students, teachers need to be able to interact with our students regularly. To build rapport and learn an individual student's needs require time and attention. As has been shown in large aggregated studies, this teacher rapport in the classroom has a large impact on student success. We cannot build the same connections in large classes. Only the students with the most demanding needs get frequent check-ins and attention in order to maintain basic classroom structure. Many students who may be struggling quietly may not receive needed teacher care and attention. Middle school classes at 23 or lower would certainly help to provide more one-on-one time with teachers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

