Testimony of

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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.

Class size matters for so many reasons.
1. Space: our classrooms were not designed to hold 25+ students/ desks/ and other classroom furniture. The kids need room to move, have a variety of spaces to work. Floor, stand up desks, tables...
2. Behaviors: there is an increase in poor behaviors/ lack of attention. When one child starts to get silly/ out of control- others tend to follow suite. It is almost impossible to implement any actual and effective consequences now, so teachers are left with just trying to move on when behaviors are so bad.
3. Individualized support. With the wide gaps in learning due to covid and just general varying levels in one class, it makes it more difficult for teachers to work with small groups/ individuals that need help/ modifications when there are so many to attend. Students do not get the attention/ support they need when the teacher is stretched too thin.
4. Feedback for improvement. Teachers want to provide effective and meaningful feedback for student improvement-- however with increased class size- it takes more time to read, evaluate, correct, assess student work and provide feedback. We are working hours and hours and hours outside our contracted time as it is-- with more students- less planning time, the more work has to get done at home. I have been teaching for 26 years (5th and 6th grade) my highest class size was 26 and my lowest has been 18. Mathematically, 8 does not seem like much, but the work load increases tenfold +.

The proposed class sizes are reasonable and manageable. Please, support teachers and make a cap on class size.

Thank you for your time and consideration.