

Testimony of

Nicole Bogdanyi

Shelton Educator

Before the

Education Committee

March 1, 2023

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 teach kindergarten in Shelton. I currently have 21 students and I am lucky that it isn't higher than that but it has been and can be. Unfortunately, Shelton's current class size cap is written in our contract as "every reasonable effort will be made to keep class sizes under 30." That is a ridiculous number and a very gray area of wording it that it could exceed 30. There are fourth grade classes in my building that have 29 students currently! That is an absolute disgrace. There is no way those students' needs (academic, social emotional, behavioral) are being met by one adult. I have had the pleasure of teaching a class of 16 grade two students one year in my 11 year career and I can attest to the success of small class sizes. The impact is tremendous. I worked with each student in a small group setting every single day. I knew these students like they were my own family. Smaller class sizes helped me to monitor the emotional needs of the students on such a greater level because I could give each child the attention they deserved. Passing legislation to cap the class sizes would be huge for a district like Shelton where the parents are speaking up at every Board of Education meeting about the class sizes and nothing is being changed. We NEED the state to mandate these types of laws so that it is being done across the board to make this demanding job somewhat more manageable. These children deserve better!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

