

Testimony of

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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 have experience in elementary schools before Covid, middle schools during Covid, and now in high schools ranging from urban areas like Hartford and New Haven, to suburban areas like Bristol and West Hartford. Across the state, students are struggling with mastering the material, but it is possible for teachers to help close learning gaps. However, to make that possible, we must reduce class sizes to at most those outlined in Senate Bill 1093. Given the increased deficits created by Covid and the increased mental health needs we see today, we must reduce class size. Reducing class size will help ensure that our future workforce is prepared by allowing for teachers to attend to each student's individual academic and social-emotional needs. Please imagine for yourself how many elementary, middle, or high school students you would feel comfortable teaching at a time, and use that as a metric to guide you in making this decision for our state. Let us be an example to other states by taking one step towards supporting the mental health of teachers and students, and the academic growth of our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

