

Testimony of

**Steven Costa**

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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.

Being an art teacher, having a cap on class sizes is needed. Some of the ways that it can negatively impact my art class is space, materials, behavior and budget. In my town I teach at two schools being in a suburban town our classroom size dimensions are small. If there is no cap on the number of students it can become to claustrophobic. The only way to accommodate more students is by having to rebuild our schools so that the rooms are more spacious. For materials as an art teacher they are already low I get around \$1,000 a year for art materials. If we get more students I feel as though I won't have enough money to provide my students with more materials to run a Successful art class. This year we are already being told we don't have enough money in the budget and have to do some cuts. So how are we going to be able to provide enough materials for our students with that budget? There are some art teachers that get less than that. When I worked in Hartford, CT some of these teachers would only get \$300 for the year and they would pay out of their pocket for the rest which is not right! Also having more students might require teachers to have a longer prep in order to prepare for a larger class size. Behavior is a big issue. Having large class sizes can contribute to more issues with behavior. It can be more challenging for the teachers to manage which turns into students being disrespectful and not cooperative. Also depending if a student might have a IEP and a 504 it can be difficult for the teacher to give them the attention they deserve. Lastly, this will also effect the budget which I sort of mentioned throughout this. Some schools would need bigger classrooms meaning more schools would need to be built. More money for materials, furniture etc. please cap the class sizes so they can remain smaller. That way every child will get the attention they need and deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

