

Testimony of

Jackie Duncan

Pomperaug 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 Senate Bill 1093, which would implement caps on class sizes and take an important step in ensuring that classrooms are places where students can learn and educators can teach. In the 2021-2022 school year I had 20 kindergarten students in my class. If you haven't been in a kindergarten classroom lately, it is very much like what first grade used to be. It is very academic focused and there are many assessments that are completed on a regular basis. In kindergarten these assessments can rarely be completed as a whole class and must be administered on a one to one basis. This takes time away from writing and reading conferences, small group focused teaching, and is very disruptive to the routine. Now, again, I had 20 children. I felt like when I finished one set of assessments, I was rolling into another. This also has a direct impact on the behaviors of the children as my attention needs to be focused on the assessing and does not always allow me to address unexpected behavior choices. This school year (2022-2023), by some lucky happenstance, I have 13 kinders. I can, with 100% confidence, tell you that the difference in my ability to get through all of the assessments and tackle behaviors is so much greater. I feel like I can complete these in a timely manner and then actually use the data to form my small groups and support them. I am able to differentiate many more lessons and establish more consistent teaching routines because I am not always pulling children to the side to assess. I strongly encourage you to consider capping the class size based on the current rigorous demands in the classroom and expectations for the children. Please consider the grade level as well, and remember k-3 is very different than 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Jackie Duncan Kindergarten Teacher

