

Testimony of

Reina DiNino

Stamford 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.

My name is Reina. I am a dedicated and passionate teacher who cares deeply for my students' success on every level. Class size limitations are imperative. I say this from my own professional experience and how I can manage to give my students what they need when class sizes are smaller, but don't listen to me. Listen to research. This should not be a political agenda, funding issue or school board debate. It's common sense.

As a country, I'd we claim to care about student achievement, then the greatest asset our students can have is a successful classroom environment.

In grades K-3, students need explicit instruction to bridge the gaps in math and reading. Smaller class sizes allow for a teacher to give that level of support. Research says that growth in smaller classes outpaces larger, giving a chance for students to make more than marginal growth. Teachers are able to give more individualized instruction and create even smaller groups to specialize student needs.

With smaller class sizes, we can achieve greater heights for our children and for our future leaving less room for inequity. I urge you to consider the whole child and the people teaching our children. What is best for them? Where would you want your child to learn? What does that classroom environment look like to you? Thank you for your time and attention.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

