

Testimony of

Robin Slane

Montville 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.

Not only do classroom teachers student loads have increased but Special Education Case Loads have exploded and there is no limit to the amount of students we except into the caseloads as the year progresses. I started with a caseload of 12 which insured small group instruction (instruction with disabled students isn't deemed effective if the group is larger than five). This caseload worked best when placed with an assistant working with me to handle all the hours required of me. Now my assistant is removed to substitute teaching and I was told to just double up on classes to cover the caseload. This means placing students will different disabilities and different goals and objectives together in large groups of 6 or 7 to just cover base. This is not appropriate education for these students. In addition, I have a growing number of parent referrals which are adding to the my caseload responsibilities for testing when I do not have an allocated time for testing, nor a substitute for all of these meetings I must attend. At present my caseload will grow to a total of 16 and my groups are no longer small (5 or under) and everyone's education is suffering from the lack of consistently of direct instruction (no substitutes for illness for us, higher service rates that can't be met by one person, very large groups with many ADHD students in a group (4-5) . Please consider a bill to LIMIT caseloads for Special Education Teachers as well since we are the most impacted in the school system by the growing number of below/crisis level students and we are leaving in droves out of the field. Thank you- 20 year veteran.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

