

Testimony of

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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 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 been teaching high school science for the past 16 years and, as such, have enjoyed the opportunity to have my classes limited at 24 students for safety issues. However, my district, Stamford Public Schools, has considered ignoring this safety practice and would like to increase science classes to 26...and then possibly to 30 students. In addition to seeing a significant increase in student injuries in larger science classes, this would hinder my effectiveness as a teacher because I would no longer be able to provide the personalized attention to each student. Additionally, increasing class sizes will only add to the amount of teacher burnout which is already at a record high. Ensuring reasonable class sizes will allow Connecticut teachers to continue their great work. As a parent of two elementary school children, the benefits of reduced class size for students at that age are incredible. As a high school teacher, when students have gaps we often think, "what were they doing in middle school?" If class sizes are reduced, teachers at lower grade levels will be able to provide those essential foundational skills allowing our students to reach their full potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

