

Testimony of

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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.

In my long career there has been no program, or resource that has had a greater impact on my instruction than class size. In challenging years I taught six tables of four kindergarteners and once had a third grade class of 29 students. Recently, due to the pandemic class sizes have been dramatically reduced. I can confidently say that the years where my class size was between 20 and 25 were better in every way. I would gladly hand over all the technology currently in use to have class sizes that are reasonable. The personal connections that teachers make with students require time and attention. The opportunities for students' meaningful participation increase when the numbers are lower. We know that students' development has been impacted by the pandemic. The need for small class sizes has never been greater.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

