

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 am so proud of the work I do in my classroom building community, connecting with individual students, and helping students know that they can because they did. Each student feels valued and respected.

As class sizes increase (as I've had to face in recent years, and in response to teacher shortages), the students get less personal time, and less direct instruction. Connection and community begin to falter. Students that need extra support are not able to get the help they need, and start to believe that they are broken.

Equity means that students need different amounts and kinds of support to be successful. When class sizes bulge and teacher attention is split, it is students who suffer. Student frustration exacerbates truancy and chronic absenteeism, harms student's mental health, and leads to increases in negative behaviors (from dis-engagement, to avoidance to disconnection to bullying and addiction). Larger class sizes harm students.

Please help keep teachers and administrators in the profession, and support students in their time of need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

