

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've been a Kindergarten teacher since 1999. Over these twenty plus years of my career, the demands on our youngest learners have increased dramatically. And class sizes continue to fluctuate in my district where I work, directly impacting how well I can teach Reading, Writing, Math, Social Skills, Science, Intentional Play, and Phonics . Some schools have as low as 13 children per class, while others can have upwards to 22 children. Class Size as well as teacher and para support are crucial at all levels of education. Without small class sizes AND proper adult support, I have experienced behaviors escalating, and children are not getting enough one to one or small group support as needed. This year, I am fortunate to have 15 students and it is much more manageable in terms of delivering content. The higher the class size, the more challenging teaching and learning becomes for everyone--the teacher AND the students-- in the classroom. Please continue to work to support small class sizes across ALL grade levels in ALL districts in our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

