

Testimony of

**Margo Sandahl**

**Stamford Educator**

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.

Data shows that most teachers say that smaller classes would strongly boost student learning. I teach in the lower elementary grades when children, many who have suffered some type of trauma, often form attachments to their teachers.

Children at a young age are still learning the personal/social domain of education and that requires building trusting relationships with others, including teachers. There are shoelaces to tie, coats to zip, noses to wipe, hugs to comfort and little voices to be heard. This all requires smaller class sizes so children can receive the loving care and education they deserve. Teachers who are still in this profession should not be over worked with larger class sizes to make up for the lack of staffing. This may even help to retain 'seasoned' educators. Class size should have a cap to ensure high quality individualized education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

