

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.

As a physical education, teacher, class sizes are just as important as any other content area. Having class is too small can often times make games, monotonous and boring. But on the other hand, class sizes being too large, unfortunately creates safety issues and also reduces the amount of time a student can be active. For example, if I have a class of 18 students while playing floor hockey, I can create three teams of six students. While two teams play, the third team would get a rest. A simple rotation provides each team the opportunity to play the same amount of time with a small amount of rest in between. Unfortunately, I often times have 28 students in a class where I'm only allowed to use half of a gym. In those cases I have to divide the teams up into four or five teams which reduces the amount of time students are active and increases the amount of time students are sitting. This, of course is in addition to the safety concern of having so many students in a small space. Regulating class sizes is a must.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

