

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.

First, grade 3 needs to be grouped with K-2 in any of this legislation. I'm a third grade teacher and this is where kids go from learning to read, to reading to learn. However, due to students being behind at the moment, it's crucial for grade 3 to be included in the primary cap. I have 22 students at the moment. Besides instruction in all subjects, I need to plan and implement small groups in reading and writing and math, with 22 students, I am struggling to meet with students as often as I can because I have 22 students.

I have multiple students with special needs and one HUGE factor in class size is how overstimulated some children get in a class of 22 compared to a class of 16. This is also the first year students take a state test. This is another reason it's imperative for third grade classes to be smaller. It takes away from meeting the needs of all my students as often as I can, simply based on having too many children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

