

## **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 438: AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

May 4, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Osten and Rep. Walker, Vice-Chairs Senator Hartley, Rep. Dimassa, Rep. Horn, Ranking Members Senator Formica and Rep. Lavielle, and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee:

I am a retired teacher living in Rockfall, CT who taught as an elementary teacher for 38.5 years in Regional School District #17 (Haddam-Killingworth.) I am a member of the ARTC (Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut), RTHA (Retired Teachers Healthcare Advocates), and CEA-Retired. I retired from teaching in 2009 shortly after my husband passed away. I am able to maintain my own little home with 2 rescue dogs here in the beautiful state of Connecticut, and I truly wish to continue to live out my life here in our state.

I am opposed to SB 438 unless it is amended with language that addresses the following five concerns:

**1. Addition of a third retired teacher representative on the TRB.**

The number of retired teachers in Connecticut has increased since the last statutory adjustment was made in 1991. This will give broader representation for a greater number of retired teachers.

**2. Formation of an Advisory Council to the TRB composed of Retired Teacher organizations throughout Connecticut.**

This Advisory Council would be able to provide TRB members with “real-world experiences” facing retired teachers in Connecticut, especially in the area of healthcare.

**3. Establishment of term limits for TRB representatives.**

Tenure on the TRB shall not exceed 3 four-year terms or its equivalent. This would allow a healthy turnover to insure proper representation necessitated by change in perspectives.

**4. Permanent inclusion of a Medicare Supplement Plan among those healthcare insurance plans that are to be offered to retired teachers through the TRB.**

Supplement plans offer all the protections of traditional Medicare that retired teachers have experienced and understand. The state will have no additional cost by doing this, since it is the retired teacher who pays to “buy up” to the Supplement plan.

**5. Elimination of using retired teachers healthcare premiums to pay for TRB professional fees or to subsidize an agency budget.**

OUR HEALTHCARE PREMIUMS MUST ONLY BE USED TO PAY FOR MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION, HEARING, PRESCRIPTION COSTS!

Thank you for your hard work for the people of the state of Connecticut. As you reconvene during these trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic, please stay safe.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen R. Hennessey  
Rockfall, CT