

## Testimony in Opposition to SB 438: An Act Concerning revisions to the Teachers' Retirement System

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 (36 years of service in the state) Connecticut teacher. Wishing to have an open and collaborative relationship with the Teachers' Retirement Board, I write the following testimony:

I oppose SB 438 unless it is amended to contain language that represents retired teachers' concerns including the following:

1. -add a third retired teacher representative to the Teachers' Retirement Board to reflect the current ratio of retired teaches to active teachers. The additional retired teacher representative should be nominated by an organization that is composed of retired teachers not currently on the TRB, in order to broaden representation for a greater number of retired teachers.
2. -form an Advisory Council to the TRB composed of retired teacher organizations throughout Connecticut (including CEA, AFT-Connecticut, RTHA and ARTC. ) This will allow retired teachers to have a better partnership and collaborative approach with the TRB especially when it concerns our healthcare.
3. -**always** include a Medicare Supplement Plan choice for healthcare along with the Medicare Advantage Plan choice for retired teachers. Please include this language to amend SB 438:  
  
"The TRB will include a Medicare Supplement Plan among those healthcare insurance plans offered to retired teachers. The Medicare Supplement Plan shall be substantially equal to or better than the other offerings and include all of the state of Connecticut insurance mandates. Costs shall be reasonable and fair."
4. -eliminate the practice of using retired teachers' healthcare premiums to pay for TRB professional fees or to subsidize an agency budget.

Thank you all for your hard work on these important issues during this time of crisis. I wish you all good health.

Sincerely,

Margaret C. Kundahl  
West Hartford

