

May 3, 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 Margaret Rick of West Hartford, a retired educator of 35 years with experience serving students in Hartford, West Hartford and Meriden. I am presently a member of:

- Hartford Federation of Teachers (Retired)
- American Federation of Teachers (Retired)
- Association for Retired Teachers (Connecticut)
- Retired Teachers Healthcare Advocates

I am writing today about a bill that is before the Appropriations Committee: SB438. **I am opposed to SB 438 unless it contains amendments that support:**

- A third retired teacher representative on the Teachers Retirement Board (TRB)
- An Advisory Council to the TRB consisting of retired teachers, representing Connecticut organizations supporting retired teachers.
- A requirement to offer an Medicare Supplement Plan as an option for retired teachers

I support the following amendments that relate to these needs:

1. "Upon enactment of SB 438 and quadrennially thereafter, the TRB System shall elect from their number in a manner prescribed by said board, one person to serve as a member of said board for a term of four years following such election. Such person shall be a retired teacher, who shall be nominated by the members of the system who are retired, elected by all the retired members of the system and, is a member of an organization exclusively composed of retired teachers not currently represented on the TRB."
2. "The TRB will create an Advisory Council composed of 8 retired teachers: 2 from each of the following retired teacher organizations: the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut, the Connecticut Education Association-Retired, the AFT-Connecticut, and the Retired Teachers' Healthcare Advocates. Each of the 8 Advisory Council members shall be enrolled in one of the TRB healthcare plans. The Advisory Council shall provide TRB with input on matters pertaining to retired teacher healthcare insurance and related evaluations prior to any final decisions by TRB. Also, the Advisory Council shall provide input relative to communications between TRB and its members. The Advisory Council will have sufficient time to meet prior to each TRB meeting, and be provided with the necessary information related to their function."
3. "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.”

I support these amendments, as they will

- Increase representation of retirees on the TRB, providing a stronger voice for retirees and their needs.
- Improve the communication between the TRB and the retiree population that the TRB serves.
- Facilitate input of retirees in decision-making, especially in determining healthcare decisions that are crucial to retiree welfare.

I will appreciate your attention to the recommended amendments.

Sincerely,
Margaret Rick
West Hartford