

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: SB430. **I am writing in support of SB 440, specifically the change in the COLA threshold** for the reasons listed below:

- SB 440 will lower the trigger, currently at 8.5% to 6.9%, which will reduce the current restrictions preventing a full Cost-of-Living-Allowances (COLA)
- SB 440 consistently extends the same 6.9% assumption rate already approved and accepted by TRB to all TRB statutory language.
- SB 440 completes an accidentally neglected component of the State Treasurers Plan to restructure the unfunded liabilities of the TRB.
- SB 440 has the support of the major stakeholders involved; the State Treasurer, TRB, and Retired Teachers

I will appreciate your support of SB 440 as it will positively affect the economic well being of Connecticut's retired teachers.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Rick  
West Hartford