



March 9, 2021

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France and members of the Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of ARTC ,an organization rep 12,000 retired teacher members/affiliates, and as the leg co-chairs, we write in appreciation of the legislative's commitment to retired teachers and urge support for a fairer representation of retired teachers to the TRB. We are petitioning for a statutory change to add two additional elected retired teacher representatives to the TRB.

Presently the 12 member TRB includes 4 active teacher rep but only 2 retired teacher rep. In 2020 there were approx. 50,000 active teachers and approximately 38,000 retired teachers. Clearly, additional elected retired teachers should be added to the TRB to correct this under representation.

For fairer representation, the additional elected retired teachers should represent an organization that is exclusively composed of retired teachers not currently represented on the TRB and should be enrolled in a TRB healthcare plan.

Presently only one member of the Board is enrolled in a TRB health insurance plan. None of the other Board members are directly impacted by the decisions made by the Board concerning health plan choices. Retired teachers need representation on the board to insure continued sponsorship of both Medicare Supplemental and Medicare Advantage health insurance programs. Because retired teachers pay for the bulk of their health insurance, they should have adequate representation on the TRB, the decision making body.

In your budget proposal, we urge your support for additional elected retired teachers to be added to the TRB. Because the issues of pension and health insurance directly and immediately affect them, the additional elected retired teachers would insure a fairer and broader representation for the 38,000 CT ret teachers.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request for a statutory change to the makeup of the Teachers Retirement Board.

Sincerely,

Catherine D'Agostino and Sandra P. Bove, ARTC Legislative Co-chairs