



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

On behalf of ARTC, a non-profit organization of retired teachers that represent 16,000 members/affiliates and advocate for 38,000 CT retired teachers, and as the legislative co-chairs, we write in support of:

**SB 1081 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INTEREST RATE RELATING TO TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM COST-OF-LIVING ALLOWANCES AND RESERVING CERTAIN LOTTERY FUND REVENUE FOR THE CONNECTICUT TEACHERS' RETIREMENT FUND BONDS SPECIAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

We support **Treasurer Shawn Wooden's proposal for a change in the assumed rate of return to 6.9% for the Teachers Retirement COLA.** Raised Bill 1081 concerns the interest rate relating to teachers' Retirement System cost-of-living allowances. The investment assumption rate determining the retired teacher pension COLA is presently at 8.5%. This is not in line with the Teacher's Retirement Board's lowered assumed rate of return of 6.9%.

Connecticut teachers pay 7% of their earnings into the Teachers Retirement Fund. They do not pay into Social Security. Retired teachers' COLA, however, is tied to Social Security cost of living adjustments as well as investment returns and COLA caps. We believe this change of the assumed rate of return to 6.9% as it relates to the COLA of retired teacher pensions is a fair request.

We thank you in advance for raising this bill.

Sincerely,

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