

Testimony in Support of SB 1082  
March 25, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Osten and Rep. Walker, Vice-Chairs Senator Hartley, Rep. Dathan and Rep. Nolan, and Ranking Member Senator Miner and Rep. France, and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Kathy Hennessey and I am a retired teacher living in Rockfall, CT. I taught as an elementary teacher for 38.5 years in Regional School District #17 (Haddam-Killingworth.) I retired from teaching in 2009 shortly after my husband passed away. I am a Connecticut native and I love our state.

I am writing in SUPPORT OF SB 1082: **AN ACT CONCERNING A RETIRED TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL, THE MEMBERSHIP OF AND TERM LIMITS FOR THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD, A CAP ON CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL FEES PAID BY THE BOARD, AND MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTAL PLANS FOR RETIRED TEACHERS.**

I support the entire bill, especially the section that provides for permanent inclusion of the Original Medicare Supplement Plan among those healthcare insurance plans that are to be offered to retired teachers through the TRB.

I place more trust in an Original Medicare Supplement Plan than the Medicare Advantage plans that are being sold to the public now. Advantage plans are under the control of the big insurance companies which make big profits from their products. Even though I pay more for Original Medicare with a Supplement, I am happy to pay this difference. I feel the cost is worth it. My budget currently allows me to do this.

I also feel very strongly about Section 1 (NEW) which calls for the establishment of a Retired Teacher Advisory Council. This council would be able to improve communications between the TRB and its members. Presently there is only a restricted public comment portion at the end of the meeting, with no response from the TRB.

Once, while waiting to gain admittance to a monthly TRB meeting in 2019, I had a very unsettling conversation with a representative from a large

teacher organization. The representative was very concerned about the large number of retirees who had gathered wanting to attend the meeting. If there were to be an Advisory Council, this council could be the intermediary to receive questions and concerns from retirees and present these items to the TRB for response. This Advisory Council would provide a more comfortable way for an informational exchange to occur between retirees and the TRB.

Please vote YES to support SB 1082 for CT retired teachers.

Thank you for all the work you do for the people of the state of Connecticut.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen R. Hennessey  
Rockfall, CT