

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 Members Senator Miner and Rep. France, and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee,

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.

My name is Kenneth Poppe, and I am a resident of Simsbury. I am a retired Connecticut teacher. I taught in Westport, Farmington and West Hartford for a total of 38 years. I was a high school history teacher and department head. I am a member of the Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut and of the Farmington Valley Retired Teachers group that support our pension and health plans. I have worked with Representative John Hampton and his constituent advisor Jason Knight who have supported our concerns.

I support all of the parts of SB 1082 because I believe they are designed to insure that the Teachers Retirement Board is more effective and responsive to the needs of retired teachers. I am particularly convinced that retired teachers need another retired teacher representative on the TRB and an Advisory Council that could be helpful in providing suggestions and feedback to the TRB. Most of all, I strongly approve of a requirement that the TRB always provide choices of a Medicare Supplement Plan for retired teachers.

I ask the Committee to vote 'yes' and to support SB 1082 for retired Connecticut teachers. I would like to thank the Committee members for their hard work on behalf of Connecticut's retired teachers.

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