

Testimony in Support of SB 1082

April 6, 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.

My name is Noreen A. Scafuri and I am a resident of Canton. I am a retired Connecticut teacher. I taught in Avon, East Granby and Hartford for 21 plus years. I am a member of the AFT-R (American Federation of Teachers, Retired), ARTC, and RTHA (Retired Teachers Healthcare Advocates).

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 am in support of the entire bill, especially the continued offering of a Medicare Supplement plan.

We need statutory language to ensure that a Medicare Supplement will continue to be an option. This option is a choice by its enrollees to maintain its insurances and protections of traditional Medicare by paying the additional premium charge for the supplement.

This is truly a CHOICE, and the full difference in premium cost over the Medicare Advantage Plan is borne by the Supplement enrollee. Statements to the contrary are false.

We have been inundated with advertisements for Medicare Advantage plans. (often, their identification is shown in small print.)

By adding a third retired teacher to the Teachers' Retirement Board (TRB) the proportion of active to retired teachers will be brought into a fair balance. It has been thirty years since the last such alignment.

A modification of the election process, such as nominations via an organization exclusively composed of retired teachers (not currently on the

TRB) who are enrolled in a TRB health plan, would broaden retired teacher representation.

Regarding professional fees, I support the proposal with an emphasis on the detailed accounting requirement.

An advisory council of retired teachers can be viewed as a positive link between those who serve a vital function and those who are served. There are TRB procedures that, while not intended, may discourage contact. Two minute time limits on comments at meetings and limited responses to them do nothing to enhance transparency and the flow of ideas.

I favor term limits and the specific recommendation appears reasonable.

I am asking the Committee to vote "Yes" and to support SB 1082 for CT retired teachers.

I would like to thank the Committee for all your hard work on behalf of CT retired teachers.

Sincerely,
Noreen A. Scafuri - Canton