

*Testimony of*

**Donna Wescott**

Retired Educator

Before the

**Appropriations Committee**

Re:

**SB 107: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM HEALTH INSURANCE  
SUBSIDY.**

March 18, 2022

Good morning, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Miner, Representative France, and members of the Appropriations Committee.

I testify today in support of SB 107 and the increase in the health insurance subsidy for retired teachers; however, I urge you to amend the proposal to increase the subsidy amount for all retired educators.

The retired teachers' health insurance subsidy has not seen an increase since its 1996 even though insurance prices have continued to go up exponentially. As such, I encourage you to amend this proposal to double the current subsidy from \$110 to \$220 per person month for retired teachers and their spouses under age 65 to purchase insurance coverage from their former school districts and to \$440 per month for retired teachers age 65 and over who do not qualify for Medicare.

I taught for 36 years in the state of Connecticut. Because I did not work enough quarters outside my teaching position and because I was not married for 10 years I am not eligible for Medicare. I need to work 5 years to qualify for Medicare. I was unable to do that when I left the school system as I became my mothers care giver. It is becoming more and more difficult to pay into the insurance the school system selected and I would appreciate the additional 220 the state would pay. Please consider to vote for this bill.

Thank you for addressing this critical issue impacting our retired educators.