

*Testimony of*  
**Joslyn DeLancey**  
**Connecticut Education Association**  
Before the  
**Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee**  
Re:  
**Commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Education**  
February 22, 2022

Good morning, Senator Duff, Representative Concepcion, and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. I am Joslyn DeLancey, vice president of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). CEA represents educators in over 150 school districts in Connecticut.

CEA strongly supports the confirmation of Charlene Russell-Tucker as commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Education.

As interim commissioner, Ms. Russell-Tucker has been highly effective at a time when the Department of Education has faced enormous challenges due to the global pandemic. During her time as interim commissioner, Ms. Russell-Tucker has shown tremendous leadership. She excels at bringing people together from various points of view to better inform decisions that affect public education in Connecticut. In doing so, Ms. Russell-Tucker has been instrumental in ensuring coordination across state agencies and in ensuring that parents, educators, and other stakeholders across the state are heard by state agency policymakers.

As a long-time leader within the State Department of Education, Ms. Russell-Tucker has helped guide state education policy toward being more responsive to children of color, more meaningful to students who aspire to be more than a test score, and more trauma-informed for students who can excel with the appropriate support of caring adults. Such perspectives have waned in public education over the past two decades to the detriment of student learning and development. They have become irrefutably more necessary as the effects of the pandemic on students, parents, and educators persist. Ms. Russell-Tucker has been an influential voice of reason during this time and continues to be through her tenure as interim commissioner. We welcome Ms. Russell-Tucker's confirmation as commissioner.

Thank you for your time and consideration.