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Written Testimony of
Melanie I. Kolek, Legal Counsel
Connecticut Education Association
Before the
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
Re: Raised House Bill #5250
“AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE
WORKERS COMPENSATION ACT”

March 3, 2022

Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, and members of this esteemed committee. My name is Melanie Kolek and I am Legal Counsel for the Connecticut Education Association, proudly representing thousands of public school teachers across our state.

We agree with the proposed minor and technical changes as proposed in this bill. However, there remains confusion surrounding where educators should be sending their Form 30C notice of claim. In 2016, C.G.S. § 31-294c(a) was amended via Public Act No. 16-112 to require that “an employee of a municipality shall send a copy of the notice to the town clerk of the municipality in which he or she is employed.” For educators, this amendment causes a number of problems. Certified public school teachers are employed by their boards of education, **not** the municipalities where their school is located. Many do not understand this distinction, that teachers do not fall under the requirement notice but nonetheless, districts are requiring teachers to file these forms with a city or town clerk with whom they have absolutely no interaction.

For example, this creates a filing issue with those who work at charter or magnet schools, or in regional school districts. For example, where should a school employee injured in Regional School District No. 16 send a Form 30C? Should it be sent to the clerk of the town in which the school is located? Should it be sent to the town clerk in which the regional school district’s board has its business address? Should it be sent to both?

The statute must be amended to indicate that employees of a local or regional Boards of Education should file the Form 30C with the designated human resource officer for that district or to where the Board of Education has posted a location to send the form.

This is a fundamental due process issue for our state's educators which is why this needs to be rectified immediately. Thank you.