

*Testimony of*

**Janice Giroux**

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.

Prices continue to rise for everything from gas, groceries, and health care. 1996 to 2022 is a very long time to go without changes being made. CT teachers are also punished in a way with the WEP/GPO which is another grave issue that needs to be addressed now. If you taught in CT you will not be able to get your spouse's Social Security. If CT really wants to attract teachers to this wonderful profession they need to stop talking and really do something for all teachers.

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