

Testimony of

Jeanette Kildea

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.

Please help. I purchase my family insurance through my former school board. I have no say in the school system insurance negotiations. Every year the policy premiums are drastically increasing. Last year I went from having to meet a \$4,000 deductible then subsequent full coverage (with in the year) to having to meet a \$4,000 then having to pay a 'co-pay'! The policy price increase yet the benefits decrease. Please increase the subsidy to help a retired senior citizen. 34 years of being a teacher must have some value.

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