

Testimony of

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Before the

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Re:

SB 423: AN ACT IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOMS.

March 15, 2022

Good morning, Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Sampson, Representative Arora, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

I testify today in support of SB 423 and the establishment of school temperature and humidity limits and bonding for remediation and installation of modern HVAC systems. This bill would help reverse the impact of poor air quality in our schools that many don't see, but teachers and students experience every day.

For the past 2 years during the pandemic having top notch air quality via working HVAC systems has been crucial. This is an issue that needs to be addressed as we move forward and try to navigate the waves of higher Covid cases, and just general sickness, that are expected to come now that masks are optional and we are trying to return to full 100% in-school learning like it was before March of 2020.

I've been lucky to be healthy throughout the pandemic, and thanks to masks, I've barely even had a cold. While I hope this stays the same as we update our health policy to live with the pandemic, we need to take extra steps to ensure air quality is high in our school buildings. Sickness was a regular thing to start the school year prior to the pandemic...once everyone returned inside the school building with shared A/C...and sickness usually peaks even more once we need to heat the buildings as winter temperatures begin. Poor air quality that contributes to both regular colds and Covid cannot happen if we want to ensure we are as prepared as possible to keep our schools open for in person learning.

Thank you for addressing this critical issues impacting our students, our educators, and our school communities.