

Testimony of

Nancy Wimer

South Windsor 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.

I definitely support this increase as I have worked in public education for 35 years and will possibly retire in three. This bill, if passed, would directly impact me as it will help cover the increasing health insurance costs of teachers' retirement system members by increasing the subsidy. Health costs have sky rocketed and have prevented me from retiring when I'd like as I am the sole provider of health insurance for my family. When I retire, I will have to pay for health insurance out of pocket until I turn age 65, which could be for a good number of years. Paying for health insurance will be extremely expensive and will limit my quality of life during my retirement years as I will not be able to afford some of the extracurricular activities I enjoy.

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