# *Testimony of*

**Elizabeth Trojanowski**

**East Hartford Educator**

*Before the*

**Education Committee**

*Re:*

**SB 381 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND REVISIONS TO THE MANDATED REPORTER REQUIREMENTS.**

March 13, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of Senate Bill 381, which takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut. This bill ensures that our students receive the best possible education and that educators and the teaching profession are valued and respected.

When I was 20 years old working for a sales company without a degree, I made twice as much as when I quit and got my undergraduate degree and became a teacher. Financially, it’s been depleting ever since. Not only has my pay been awful, I have been forced to get a costly graduate degree that I have been paying for ever since and I have spent more money on my classroom than my own family. Donors choose has helped a lot; however, very few months I have to beg and plead my friends and family, humiliating myself to get the supplies I need for learning experiences in my class.

All this just to be emotionally challenged by the pandemic where for five minutes teachers were hailed as heroes, only to be forgotten and degraded by society when pandemic pay was given to most employees by employers of large companies, even non-essential employees were given tax returns for pandemic contributions while teachers were told to shut up, mask up, and teach, no matter the detriment to our health. This is an embarrassment - when my 10 year old daughter tells me she wants to become a teacher, I cringe. I will do whatever I have to steer her path in a different direction.

Thank for your time and consideration.