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## **Testimony of Michele O'Neill**

### **Connecticut Education Association**

#### **Before the Education Committee**

**Re: SB 172 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Education**

March 6, 2020

Good Evening Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

My name is Michele Ridolfi O'Neill. I am a former teacher and currently serve as the Education Issues Specialist for the Connecticut Education Association. I am writing in support of Sections 1, 2, and 4 of SB 172.

Sections 1 and 2 extend the duration of teacher certificates, serving to decrease the frequency of renewal fees for our beginning teachers. We fully support these sections. Many of our beginning teachers can scarcely afford the fees to begin with, having paid for numerous courses, assessments, and initial certification costs in order to become certified.

Section 4 removes language that had required the Commissioner of Education to annually review professional development requirements for certified employees who hold a Nursery through 3 or elementary endorsements. We do not believe that this statutory language is necessary and support its deletion.

We thank you for raising this Bill, and appreciate the opportunity to comment.