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An affiliate of the National Education Association

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Testimony of

Ray Rossomando

Connecticut Education Association

Before the

Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Re:

SB 1053 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHOOLS SERVED BY THE CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL

Good afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon, Senator Martin, Representative Cheeseman, and the distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. My name is Ray Rossomando and I serve as Director of Policy, Research, and Government Relations for the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). CEA represents teachers in over 150 school districts across the state, including CREC.

CEA supports HB 1053 and the approval of bond funds for improving buildings operated by CREC.

Additionally, the issue of indoor air quality in schools remains a serious concern. Vastly fluctuating temperatures, along with poor ventilation and disrepair have resulted in schools infected with mold, airborne pathogens, and infestations that cause poor health and conditions not conducive to teaching and learning. This concern has been even more evident with the potential spread of infectious disease during a public health emergency like that we are experiencing with COVID-19.

CEA urges committee members to consider also earmarking bond funds for HVAC inspection, maintenance, repair, and enhancements. Use of bonding funds to update the HVAC systems in our schools is long-overdue would be a responsible way to correct this ongoing problem.

Thank you.