

*Testimony of*

**Donna Valli**

Retired 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 am a 75 year old retiree who taught 38 years in Connecticut. I am not eligible for Medicare and therefore, purchase my health insurance through the Board of Education in East Hampton. As insurance costs have risen over the past 16 years, I have become very concerned about the affordability of health insurance in the years ahead. The TRB subsidy has not increased since 1996 and the insurance rates continue to rise each year. The cost of my premiums has almost doubled. I also have co-pays and prescription costs to add to this and of course the costs of daily living that are also rising exponentially. Please act on this to help retired teachers now.

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