

Testimony of

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Before the

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Re:

SB 423: AN ACT IMPROVING INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOMS.

March 15, 2022

Good morning, Senator Kushner, Representative Porter, Senator Sampson, Representative Arora, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee.

I testify today in support of SB 423 and the establishment of school temperature and humidity limits and bonding for remediation and installation of modern HVAC systems. This bill would help reverse the impact of poor air quality in our schools that many don't see, but teachers and students experience every day.

Clean air and comfortable temperatures are NOT a privilege. At my elementary school, my room frequently has an odor that smells like mold and mildew. The room next door to mine has had two ceiling fans installed in an effort to disguise the moldy smell. I have frequent migraine headaches and sinus infections that I don't typically experience during school vacations.

While our rooms are heated appropriately during cold months, the high temperatures we experience during the warmer months are unbearable and not conducive to teaching and learning. When classroom temperatures soar, we simply try to get through the day. In this day and age, it is shocking and insulting that we aren't able to work and learn in an air-conditioned environment.

Educators and students should not be expected to perform in uncomfortable temperatures.

Thank you for addressing this critical issues impacting our students, our educators, and our school communities.