

Testimony of

Kristina Cimini

Canton 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.

Typically one of the few benefits that is consistent for an educator is access to good insurance. Districts have required a larger and larger contribution each year by percentage for working educators because the cost of insurance has risen so high. Imagine now being a retired educator living on a fixed income who no longer receives any district subsidy for insurance coverage, receiving only the 24 year old amount allotted. It's just not enough. The legislature really needs to double these subsidies as recommended.

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