

*Testimony of*

**Matthew Tiscia**

Stamford Educator

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.

I had to miss a whole school year because of a mold issue. Mold has been an issue at our school but I never thought anything of it until I got sick. I started having anxiety attacks, low mood and digestive disorders and couldn't figure out why. It took lots of money from tests and different doctors to finally figure out that I had mold toxicity.

Thankfully with the help of a doctor I was able to correct most of the problem but I am still susceptible to mold. I came back to the classroom and tiles on my ceiling are water damaged. They were eventually replaced but I asked downtown to do an air quality test in my room for mold but they refused. I have spoken with them many times and gotten nowhere. I now have an air purifier in my room but that is only half the battle.

I love teaching and it's a shame that the district doesn't seem to care enough about my health to check for the levels of mold in my classroom.

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