



Connecticut Education Association
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Governance

Kate Dias, President
Joslyn DeLancey, Vice President
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Stephanie Wanzer, Treasurer

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Bill Raabe

Testimony of

Joslyn DeLancey
Connecticut Education Association

Before the
Appropriations Committee

Re:

HB 5048 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

February 15, 2024

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Representative Nuccio, Senator Berthel, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee, I am Joslyn DeLancey, and I serve as Vice President of the Connecticut Education Association. CEA represents more than 40,000 active and retired teachers from over 150 school districts across the state.

I also serve as a member of the Teachers' Retirement Board and carry forward CEA's priority to protect the fiscal condition of the system for retired teachers receiving benefits today and active teachers who rely on the system to be strong into the future. We thank Governor Lamont for maintaining the state's commitment to fully funding annual Teachers' Retirement System requirements, including the state's share of retiree health insurance costs.

While we recognize Governor Lamont's commitment to pension funding, we are disappointed that his budget proposal goes backward on last year's commitment to improve funding for local public schools. By reallocating more than \$60 million from education reform funding, Governor Lamont's proposed budget adjustments create a false choice between investing in early childhood education and supporting our local public schools. We are a state with many resources that spends less on education as a percentage of GDP than five other northeast states.¹ Our state can and should invest in early childhood while keeping the promise it made last year to fund our public schools. We urge Appropriations Committee members to reject the governor's cuts.

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/219500/elementary-and-secondary-public-school-expenditures-in-the-us-by-state-prozent-of-gdp/>

CEA urges the Appropriations Committee members to support a budget that focuses on funding our schools, targets funding to attract and retain qualified teachers, and makes our schools the best possible places to teach and learn.

Thank you.