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Testimony of

Ray Rossomando
Connecticut Education Association

Before the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Re:
HB 5245 AN ACT CONCERNING COPAYMENT-ONLY HEALTH PLANS

February 27, 2024

Senator Cabrera, Representative Wood, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato, Senator Hwang, and esteemed members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is Ray Rossomando, and I am the Director of Policy, Research, and Government Relations of the Connecticut Education Association. CEA represents more than 40,000 active and retired teachers from over 150 school districts across the state.

We submit testimony today in opposition to HB 5245. HB 5245 would permit health insurers to increase copays on imaging services and physical and occupational therapy applicable to participants in copayment-only plans beyond the statutory limits on other co-payment insurance plans. This change could have a significant fiscal impact on the many educators and other board of education employees now participating in such plans.

Currently, school districts are experiencing significant teacher shortages and the number of individuals pursuing careers as educators continues to decline. This bill would result in yet another negative financial impact on teachers at a time when we are trying to make the profession more attractive and more competitive with other occupations.

We urge you to reject this proposal.