# *Testimony of*

**Linda Peppe**

**North Canaan Educator**

*Before the*

**Education Committee**

*Re:*

**SB 381 AN ACT CONCERNING THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND REVISIONS TO THE MANDATED REPORTER REQUIREMENTS.**

March 13, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of Senate Bill 381, which takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut. This bill ensures that our students receive the best possible education and that educators and the teaching profession are valued and respected.

I am a 39 year veteran teacher(35) years in public education. With a Master’s plus degree I am still making less than $90 k per year. This along with being widowed makes it difficult to consider retirement. Teachers are working harder than ever with an increasingly needy population, please help us do our jobs and make the incentives more attractive for new educators coming into the profession.

Thank for your time and consideration.