

**Testimony of**  
**Greg Vickers**  
**Retired Educator**  
**14 Park Ter. Hartford, CT 06106**

My name is Greg Vickers. I retired from teaching in June 2023 and I am here today to strongly oppose Governor Lamont's proposed reduction of the retired teachers' healthcare subsidy from one-third to one-fourth. This cut could have a devastating impact on retired educators who have dedicated their lives to serving Connecticut's students and communities.

For decades, Connecticut's teachers have faithfully contributed to their pension and healthcare funds with the expectation that they would have financial security in retirement. However, the proposed reduction threatens that security, potentially forcing many retired educators to pay more for essential healthcare coverage on fixed incomes. At a time when the cost of living, particularly healthcare expenses, continues to rise, this cut would place an undue burden on those who spent their careers investing in the future of our state.

Pension and the healthcare subsidy are the primary means of support for many retirees. A reduction in the state's share from one-third to one-quarter would likely result in a greater share of costs placed on retirees in the coming years. This would push many retirees into financial hardship, making it difficult for them to afford necessary medical care, prescriptions, and other healthcare-related costs.

This cut is not just a financial issue—it is a moral issue. Our retired educators dedicated their lives to shaping generations of Connecticut students. They deserve to retire with dignity, knowing that their healthcare needs are covered as promised. The state has an obligation to uphold its commitments to those who have given so much in service to our children and our communities.

I urge you to reject this proposal and maintain the current subsidy. Connecticut's retired teachers deserve what was promised.

Thank you for your time and consideration.