



Connecticut Education Association

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Testimony of

Kate Dias

Connecticut Education Association

Before the

Appropriations Committee

Re:

HB 5510 AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR SCHOOL MEALS

March 25, 2024

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Representative Nuccio, Senator Berthel, and esteemed members of the Appropriations Committee, I am Kate Dias, President of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). CEA represents over 43,000 active and retired teachers in 160 school districts across the state.

CEA testifies in support of HB 5510 AASC Funding for School Meals, which would provide universal free breakfast in schools participating in the school breakfast program.

We believe that when children start the school day fed and rested, they are better prepared to learn and for social and emotional development. We also believe that no student should ever be denied the opportunity of a school meal or be publicly identified or stigmatized for needing free or reduced lunch or for the inability to pay for a school meal. Together with other meals supported by state and federal funding, providing proper nutrition and sustenance to all children throughout the day helps support student success.

We commend Appropriation Committee members for their consistent efforts to ensure that school children receive affordable meals in school.

