



Connecticut Education Association

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Governance

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Testimony of

**Kate Dias
Connecticut Education Association**

Before the Labor Committee

Re:

HB 7195 AA CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR PARAEDUCATORS

March 11, 2025

Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, Representative Weir, Senator Sampson, and esteemed members of the Labor Committee. My name is Kate Dias, and I am president of the Connecticut Education Association, representing more than 40,000 active and retired teachers from over 150 school districts across the state.

CEA supports HB 7195.

Paraeducators are instrumental in the successful work of educators and schools. They are instrumental in helping schools meet the needs of all students by deepening the personal connections to caring adults critical to student growth and development.

Working conditions for paraeducators are not commensurate with what they give back to our school communities. HB 7195 would help address working conditions by reducing the uncertainty paraeducators experience at the end of each school year. For paraeducator who will be invited back for the following school year, receiving such notice well in advance would reduce anxiety and the potential for paraeducators to seek more dependable alternative employment. For those who would not be invited back for the next school year, HB 7195 enables them to seek and commit to alternative employment sooner. Overall, this would provide more certainty for all paraeducators and make a career as a paraeducator more attractive for those who might aspire to become one.

We urge the committee's support.