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Policy, Research, & Government Relations Ray Rossomando, Director

Testimony of

Ray Rossomando Connecticut Education Association

Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee

Re:

SB 1433 An Act Exempting the Residential Address of Employees of the Office of the Attorney General from Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act.

March 7, 2025

Representative Blumenthal, Senator Flexer and members of this esteemed committee, my name is Ray Rossomando, Director of Policy, Research, and Government Relations for the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). CEA represents educators in over 150 school districts across Connecticut.

CEA supports SB 1433. We appreciate the concerns addressed in this bill of assistant attorneys general regarding public disclosure of their home addresses. We recognize that civil service should not be accompanied by fear that in carrying out your duties, you may put your family, home, or yourself at risk. Similarly, CEA testified in favor of SB 1209 which would exempt public school educators from the disclosure of their address under the Freedom of Information Act. We also testified in favor of HB 6850, which would do the same for all public employees.

The concerns for educators, assistant attorneys general, and all public workers are the same. We have observed increasing numbers of incidents of incivility directed toward civil servants. Many have endured hateful messages, threats, and false accusations for baseless reasons that are beyond comprehension. Many fear that perpetrators of incivility will take their threatening actions one step further. It is for this reason that we support withholding the addresses of assistant attorneys general, educators, and all public employees from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Thank you.