



Connecticut Education Association

Capitol Place, Suite 500
21 Oak Street, Hartford, CT 06106
860-525-5641 | cea.org

Governance

Kate Dias, President
Joslyn DeLancey, Vice President
Tara Flaherty, Secretary
Stephanie Wanzer, Treasurer

Executive Director

Todd Jaeck

Testimony of

Kate Dias, President

&

Joslyn Delancey, Vice President

Connecticut Education Association

Before the Government Oversight Committee

Re:

**SB 1209 An Act Prohibiting the Disclosure of the Residential Address of
Public School Teachers Under the Freedom of Information Act**

February 13, 2025

Representative Dathan, Senator Gadkar-Wilcox and members of this esteemed committee. We submit testimony as the elected president, and vice president of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). CEA represents educators in over 150 school districts across Connecticut.

We submit testimony today in support of SB 1209.

Over the past few years, we have observed increasing numbers of incidents of incivility directed toward educators. Educators have endured hateful messages, threats, and false accusations for baseless reasons that are beyond comprehension. This incivility has resulted in untenable working conditions and is forcing many teachers to leave the profession. Teachers are fearful for

themselves, their families, and their students and are concerned that perpetrators of incivility will take their threats even further. It is for this reason that we support withholding the addresses of public school teachers from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Additionally, we ask legislators to also withhold the personal telephone numbers of public school teachers from disclosure under FOIA. Perpetrators of threatening behavior use social media, phone calls, and physical intimidation to carry out their abuse. Withholding phone numbers from public disclosure would also help protect public school teachers from unconscionable and threatening actions.

Recently, CEA testified in favor of HB 6850, which would exempt all public employees from the disclosure of their address under the Freedom of Information Act. We understand that many public employees face similar threats and that teachers are not alone. All of our public servants deserve to be honored for their service and protected from harm.

Thank you.