



*Written Testimony of
Phil Apruzzese, President
Connecticut Education Association*

*Before the
Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding*

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**Connecticut Education
Association**

Governance

Philip Apruzzese, President
Sheila Cohen, Vice President
Cheryl Prevost, Secretary
Jeff Leake, Treasurer
Rae Baczek, NEA Director
Maureen Honan, NEA Director
Capitol Place, Suite 500
21 Oak Street
Hartford, CT 06106-8001
860-525-5641, 800-842-4316
Fax: 860-725-6388
www.cea.org

Executive Office

Dr. John Yrchik
Executive Director

Affiliated with the
National Education
Association

Good morning, Senator Daily and Representative Staples, and members of the Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding. My name is Phil Apruzzese and I am a fifth grade teacher from Wethersfield and president of the Connecticut Education Association, representing over 40,000 educators across Connecticut. I am here to share with the committee our concerns over Senate Bill #837 'An Act Concerning Various Fees'. Our first consideration is the serious economic burden the proposed increase in fees would place on our members. While we understand (better than most) the fiscal challenges facing our state, it seems unfair and unrealistic to try to make up a hole in the budget on the backs of teachers. Our members are facing the same frightening uncertainties as everyone else – potential loss of jobs, higher and higher insurance costs, working harder for less, and at the same time being expected to singlehandedly solve problems created well beyond their classroom walls. Resources are not available, children are coming to school less, not more, prepared, and yet teachers are expected to constantly do more and more with less and less.

Senate Bill #837 proposes fee increases on teachers as high as 100%.

Such a “teacher tax” targeted at public school teachers in Connecticut is unfair and should not be considered favorably by members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

Thank You.