

**TESTIMONY OF GRETA STANFORD  
CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET RELATED TO  
THE STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT BOARD**

**BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

**Good Evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Greta Stanford. I am a resident of Milford and was a Biology and Chemistry teacher in that city for 25 years. I am also a newly elected member of the Board of Aldermen in Milford (an unpaid position).**

**Despite the fact that you've been inundated with Retirement Board figures, they bear repeating. In 2009-2010, active teachers contributed over \$44 million to the Retired Teachers' Health Insurance Fund, retired teachers, \$27 million, the state---0.**

**In 2010-2011, active teachers contributed over \$45 million, retired teachers, \$30 million, the state of CT----a big fat 0.**

**Thankfully, last year, the full appropriation was re-committed back to the health fund. But now the Governor is proposing permanently reducing its contribution – an action that will jeopardize the future of the health fund and unfairly burden some of our oldest retired teachers and their spouses.**

**The Governor's proposal will mean that retired teachers pay a premium increase of at least \$32/ month. That amounts to \$384 a year. That may not seem like a lot, but it won't pay for the vacations we never take. It won't pay for the new car we need- my husband drives an 11 year old Accord and I drive a 6 year old Civic. (He let me drive the newer one.). But we're content. However, that \$384 I spoke of pays part of our prescription co-pays. Meds are the only things keeping us alive.**

**It appears that the Governor is bent on having some of the oldest retired teachers pay a portion of the State's obligation. That just should not happen – active and retired teachers have consistently paid our fair share to the health fund, which is the majority of the money in the fund, and the State should not be allowed to back away from its obligation to do the same.**

**Please do not support the Governor's proposal to reduce the State's funding to the health fund.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

