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AppropriationTestimony
Connecticut's Obligation to its Retired Teachers

To whom it may concern,

It was shocking to read of Governor Malloy's latest idea to help the state save money, savage the CT Teacher Retirement Health Insurance program. For some of us, widows or widowers, singles or the very frail and old, the \$110 a month which Connecticut contributes to our program is a big deal. Losing it simply means that we add another uptick in costs of health insurance, costs which seem to rise incrementally on all fronts. I appreciate the very generous contribution the state has made in the aggregate to retired teachers, but as we keep saying, we have been paying our share. I must add that our contribution to the Stirling Benefits along with Medicare is not inexpensive. I know there are teachers who are married and have spouses who might have access to insurance through other programs, or who have access to a greater wealth with which to address this additional monthly cost. If the Governor is able to enact this idea into legislation it seems grossly unfair to put all of us into the same pool, means testing seems the only fair way to move this legislation forward. Those who can afford it can perhaps pay a greater share, those who have less financial security can pay according to their resources. Keep in mind if I have to spend more on health care I have less to spend to keep the economy of Connecticut rolling along. Tying money up in health insurance has to be a great dead end as far as stimulating economic growth. I hope that Connecticut legislators will not turn their back on those of us who have dedicated our lives to Connecticut's children.

Sincerely,
Jane Nordli Jessep
Retired teacher