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AppropriationTestimony
Retiree Health Insurance

RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE

I am a retired teacher having served in education for 38 years, 33 years in Connecticut public schools. As a teacher, it was and continues to be important to be credible - to say what you mean and mean what you say. I've contributed towards my health fund all these years, knowing that those investments not only paid "ahead" to those already retired, but would be there for me.

Since Connecticut teachers are under the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), those who've never earned Social Security quarters, are ineligible for Medicare and must pay for that coverage. Those of us who did earn our 40 quarters are at least eligible for Medicare but receive less than what we are due in social security benefits (\$89/month for me). We are not talking about huge pensions for all those years of service.

Since health becomes an important issue as we age, it is an incredible insult that the state in Gov. Malloy's budget would eliminate its share of our health premiums for two years. Retirement funds have been raided in the past. The state has reneged on its obligation to contribute to these pension funds in the past. Enough is enough. Now it is time for the state of CT. to remain credible and live up to its promises. Poorly paid teachers can least afford this hit.

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"If you don't take care of your body, where are you going to live?"