



Testimony of
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Labor & Public Employees Committee
March 11, 2014

***SB 242 AN ACT CONCERNING SICK LEAVE FOR TEACHER ASSISTANTS AND
RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS***

SB 249 AN ACT PROMOTING RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Good afternoon Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. My name is Melodie Peters and I am the President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse state federation of union of nearly 29,000 public and private sector employees including state employees, nurses, higher education, healthcare workers, teachers and other school personnel. I am here today to testify in favor of SB 242 An Act Concerning Sick Leave for Teacher Assistants and Radiologic Technologists and SB 249 An Act Promoting Retirement Savings.

SB 242 An Act Concerning Sick Leave for Teacher Assistants and Radiologic Technologists

Every individual should have the ability to recover from an illness without having to choose between working with the risk of causing more harm to oneself and their coworkers or choose to miss work and therefore risk meeting the tight budgets that these jobs create. The two occupations that this bill would add to the list of those covered in Section 31-57r are two occupations that would provide a greater good to the rest of society to have the ability to take sick leave. Teacher assistants deal with numerous students in close proximity in our education system and our radiological technicians are in a work environment where individuals with weakened immune systems are common place. The impact that one contagious illness could have on these populations could be enormous. Please support SB 242 and allow our teacher assistants and radiologic technologists to recover from illness with peace of mind.

SB 249 An Act Promoting Retirement Savings

Providing an avenue for a portable retirement savings plan that is open to the public and administered by the State Treasurer will help the citizens of this state achieve a more secure future. The long term benefits of a retirement savings plan are widely recognized, and this bill would open up the pool of individuals who have access to these plans. It is difficult for our citizens to find any type of savings plan that can provide security, low administrative fees, and a

reasonable return. Support SB 249 and provide an avenue to a secure retirement for Connecticut's workforce.

Thank You