



**Testimony of Win Heimer, Executive Vice President
Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans**

**Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
February 17, 2015**

In support of HB5858 An Act Providing Funding To The Connecticut Retirement Security Board

SENATOR WINFIELD, REPRESENTATIVE TERCYAK AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY.

MY NAME IS WIN HEIMER. I AM A RESIDENT OF WEST HARTFORD AND THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS. THE ALLIANCE IS THE STATE AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS AND COMPRISES 50,000 MEMBERS IN CONNECTICUT.

WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT AND PASSAGE OF HB 5858 AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDING TO THE CONNECTICUT RETIREMENT SECURITY BOARD. IT COULDN'T BE ANY SIMPLER THAN WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THIS PROPOSED BILL'S STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: "TO ENSURE THE CONNECTICUT RETIREMENT SECURITY BOARD HAS THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO FULFILL ITS MISSION OF DEVELOPING A PUBLIC RETIREMENT PLAN TO ADDRESS THE GROWING RETIREMENT CRISIS IN CONNECTICUT."

AS RETIREES WE UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF A SAFE AND SECURE RETIREMENT. WORKERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO SPEND THEIR WORKING LIVES WORRYING IF THEY WILL HAVE ENOUGH INCOME TO SUSTAIN THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES ONCE THEY ARE ABLE TO RETIRE.

WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE EVERY WORKER IN THIS STATE CAN BE ASSURED OF AT LEAST A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF RESOURCES TO CUSHION HIS OR HER RETIREMENT YEARS. THE BOARD CAN CREATE A BLUEPRINT TO REACH THIS MODEST GOAL.

THE RETIREMENT SECURITY BOARD HAS GOTTEN OFF TO A GOOD START. BUT IT NEEDS THE RESOURCES TO FINISH ITS WORK. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT ADEQUATE RESOURCES BE ALLOCATED SO THAT THE BOARD CAN PROCEED WITH ITS ASSIGNED MISSION.

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