

Sent via electronic mail on March 7, 2016 to Monika Lazauskas (Monika.Lazauskas@ct.gov)

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM R. CONNON

RE: Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

Good morning Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor, and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee:

My name is William Connon. It is an honor and privilege to be considered for reappointment by Governor Dannel P. Malloy to the Education Arbitration Board, representing the interests of local and regional boards of education.

My sincere thanks to this committee for the opportunity to appear before you to speak to my desire to continue serving on the Education Arbitration Board. My connections with the State of Connecticut began in 1965, when my parents moved to Stamford. Other than the years I was attending law school in Syracuse, N.Y., I have resided in Connecticut ever since. My wife Nancy and I had our first child, Katie, while we lived in East Granby, and our son, Mike, was born after we moved to Canton. I am happy to say that both of our kids have now left the nest and are pursuing their own lives, while my wife and I continue to reside in Canton.

After passing the bar in 1976 I began working for a law firm that specialized in the field of education and public sector labor law. Other than a brief period of time when I was employed as a member of the corporate legal department for Combustion Engineering, I have continued to focus my legal practice in the area of public sector labor relations, representing Connecticut boards of education. Over the years I have represented dozens of Connecticut's school districts in collective bargaining with their teacher and administrator bargaining units. I also once served as a board of education's representative on an advisory arbitration panel before passage of the current last best offer binding arbitration law. Over my career I estimate that I have negotiated in the neighborhood of two hundred certified employee collective bargaining agreements, on behalf of Connecticut boards of education.

Our State's last best offer binding arbitration law has been a success for many years. The disruption to school systems caused by teacher strikes is part of Connecticut's long distant past. Another benefit to this law is the stability it has introduced in the development of municipal budgets. In virtually every Connecticut community the teachers' contract is that community's single largest financial commitment. Our time tested, certified employee, collective bargaining law allows ample time for the contract negotiations to be resolved so that the community can accurately estimate how much to budget. Having been an advocate in this system for so many years it is also fascinating and rewarding to participate as an arbitrator.

It would be my honor and privilege to continue my participation on the Education Arbitration Board, representing the interests of local and regional boards of education. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak today, and for considering my reappointment.