

Mykah Knight
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Testimony before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

Proposed S.B. No. 423

An Act AAC Indoor Air Quality in Public School Classrooms.

Good afternoon Senator Kushner and Rep. Porter and to the distinguished members of the Labor Committee. My name is Mykah Knight, I live in West Haven, and I work for the Connecticut Citizen Action Group.

I am testifying in support of SB 423. As you may know many of the public schools in Connecticut are suffering from HVAC systems that are broken or in a severe state of disrepair. Many districts also have school buildings that are suffering from mold and other indoor air quality issues.

I believe this all goes to show how essential passing SB 423 would be with addressing our school systems' building infrastructure needs. All of this was an issue prior to Covid – however the pandemic has exacerbated these issues tremendously within the few past years. The American Rescue Plan's funding has the great potential of including these renovations moving forward. Passing this bill would establish mandatory indoor temperature regulation. It will require school buildings to close if school temperatures are no longer safe for the students and teachers. It will also force the Departments of Labor and the Department of Education to develop safe indoor air quality safety assessments. This will improve the breathing quality for students and teachers.

The state needs certain policies to ensure that funding towards infrastructure is being used accordingly. This can be the next step towards the right direction. We have an unprecedented opportunity to improve the air quality within school buildings for children across Connecticut. I urge the Committee to pass SB 423. Thank you for your consideration.