



**Testimony of  
John Brady  
AFTCT Executive Vice President**

**Environment Committee  
February 7, 2023**

Good day Senator Lopes, Representative Gresko, ranking members Senator Harding, Representative Callahan, and distinguished members of the Environmental Committee. My name is John Brady, I am a Registered Nurse and Vice President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse union of 34,000 members in education, healthcare, and state public service.

I come before you today in support of **SB 961 An Act Concerning Carbon-Free School Requirements For New School Construction And Establishing Other School Construction And Public Health Requirements For School Districts.**

This is a bill that offers many advantages to Connecticut's students, educators, workforce, and taxpayers. Heating and cooling of schools are typically one of the largest expenses for a school district. Often, despite the district's best efforts, schools remain too cool in the winter and too warm in the spring and fall to allow for a conducive learning environment. Often, schools with such heating problems are in less well funded districts and disproportionately affect students who already face a multitude of other factors attributed to the income disparity that affects some towns and cities in our state.

By providing a program that establishes a supervisory board with resources to administer a program and with a funding mechanism, this bill would allow districts to upgrade future construction to be both costs saving and good for the environment of the buildings, and the state.

This bill also addresses the long-term welfare of the health of our schools' students and staff. Extremes of classroom temperatures and poor ventilation have a negative effect on students and staff, increasing the incidence of asthma and other respiratory problems. Lead and other contaminants in the water likewise cause long lasting health concerns. This bill addresses these issues.

This bill also provides an example for our next generation. That example is that we, as a people, can identify problems, find solutions, and solve them. The ability to improve indoor air and water quality, lower energy costs, and lower our carbon footprint is a vital lesson, and an example, for us to provide to them.

Lastly, but very importantly, this bill calls for economic stimulus using Project Labor Agreements, which will provide good paying jobs to Connecticut residents, as well as training opportunities for the next generation of

Connecticut Craftspeople, who will continue Connecticut's tradition of having the most qualified workforce in our country.

Thank you for considering my testimony and thank you for your service to the people of Connecticut.