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Testimony of
Kate Dias & Joslyn DeLancey
Connecticut Education Association
Before the
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
Re:
HB 5187 AA Adjusting the Fiscal Guardrails
HB 5133 AA Increasing the Highest Marginal Rate of the Personal Income Tax
SB 101 AA Establishing a State-Wide Property Tax on Certain Residential Real Property
SB 103 AA Establishing a Refundable Child Tax Credit
SB 104 AA Establishing a Capital Gain Surcharge
February 27, 2026

Representative Horn, Senator Fonfara, Representative Polletta, Senator Fazio, and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee. Our names are Kate Dias and Joslyn DeLancey, and we are president and vice president of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) respectively, which represents educators in over 150 school districts across the state.

We support progressive revenue enhancements and responsible revisions to fiscal guardrails to better ensure that Connecticut is a great place to live for all.

Families in Connecticut have many intersecting needs that show up in various ways in our members' schools and classrooms. CEA continually advocates for more resources to improve public schools and help educators meet the myriad needs of students.

Additionally, federal support has become precarious as shifts in federal funding impact our state. To provide Connecticut education with this new state-based fiscal backbone and simultaneously address federal fallout, we support proposals creating and tying new sustained and dedicated state revenue streams to school funding. We also support progressive revenue enhancements that can help improve the lives of families, and the lives of students in our classrooms. Revenue that can be targeted toward public, healthcare, early childhood, transit, food assistance and housing together improve entire school communities, and communities as a whole.

More specifically, we support the revisions to the fiscal guardrails proposed in **HB 5187**. The formula's current method of estimating growth does not accurately represent the average changes from year to year. As a result, significant revenues raised to benefit the public good are not appropriated toward that goal. Using a moving average will better reflect the true changes in the economy that people experience and free up existing resources for beneficial uses.

Additionally, we support progressive revenue-raising efforts, such as **HB 5133** and **SB 104**, as well as proposals, like **SB 103**, that help families make ends meet. Such proposals can better ensure that state policies address the needs of Connecticut families.

We also support **SB 101**, which would establish a statewide property tax on high value residential properties. For decades, leaders have identified Connecticut's overreliance on local property taxes to fund public schools as inequitable across municipalities. *Horton v. Meskill* (1977) determined that this overreliance created substantial, and consequentially unconstitutional, disparities in school spending based on municipalities' disparate ability to raise revenue. By proposing a far more progressive and equalizing statewide mil rate on residential properties worth \$3 million or more, SB 101 directly addresses core inequities in our reliance of local property taxation to fund public schools.

The primary remedy for unconstitutional disparities in revenue generation for schools has been the ECS formula - remedying such disparities is a goal that remains elusive. ECS formula grants have grown for many cities and towns, but not nearly at the pace of inflation.

CEA has long advocated for tying a dedicated revenue source, such as a statewide mil rate on mansions, to ECS and school funding. A more sustained and dependable revenue source can mean more resources to help students in need. It can help make headway toward addressing teacher shortages and improve teaching and learning.

Taken together, such proposals being heard today would elevate Connecticut. These proposals are bold and timely. They are also appropriate and responsible, having been

implemented successfully in similar forms in many other states. We commend the committee for being bold and for welcoming a public dialogue on how best to move Connecticut forward.