



Connecticut Education Association

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Governance

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Testimony of

Kate Dias & Joslyn DeLancey

Connecticut Education Association

Before the

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Re:

SB 440 AAC Unemployment for Striking Workers

SB 442 AAC a Study of Retirement Health Benefits for Paraeducators

March 10, 2026

Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, Senator Sampson, Representative Weir, and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Our names are Kate Dias and Joslyn DeLancey, President and Vice President of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA), which represents educators in over 150 school districts across the state.

SB 440 AAC Unemployment for Striking Workers

CEA supports SB 440 because we believe that all workers deserve a meaningful voice in their workplaces that balances the authority that management has over working conditions. While Connecticut teachers do not have the legal right to strike, CEA stands in solidarity with working people across our state and recognizes that strong labor rights help build stronger schools, communities, and economies.

SB 442 AAC a Study of Retirement Health Benefits for Paraeducators

CEA supports SB 442 and our paraeducators. Paraeducators are essential contributors to the success of educators, students, and schools. They provide critical academic and social emotional support, strengthen relationships with students, and help ensure that schools can meet the diverse needs of all learners. Despite the significance of their work, the benefits available to paraeducators, particularly related to retirement health coverage, vary widely and are often limited.

The proposed study of retirement health benefits for paraeducators offers an opportunity to build a clear understanding of the current conditions. Examining the benefits that paraeducators receive today and identifying potential areas for improvement can help illuminate the long-term challenges facing this workforce. Passing this legislation would be an important step that addresses paraeducator recruitment and retention. SB 442 recognizes that paraeducators play a vital role in public education. Passage of SB 442 would ensure future discussions about how to promote stability, encourage career longevity, and provide paraeducators greater financial security as they approach retirement.