Testimony of Teacher at Oliver Ellsworth School
Before the General Assembly Education Committee

March 6, 2024

Regarding SB 287 – AAC Indoor Air Quality in Schools

HB 5347 – AAC Authorization of State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects and Revisions to the School Building Project Statutes

      I am a teacher at Oliver Ellsworth Elementary School in Windsor, CT. I am writing to ask for you to take all possible actions, urgently, to help schools like ours and to support SB 287 and HB 5347 as steps along the way.

I have been working here for 8 years and in the last 3 years I've had a decline in my students' and my health. The first year that it really began was the year we started the year wearing masks because of COVID-19, in 2020. My students had various illnesses here and there but nothing drastic. When the mask mandate lifted, my students were constantly out for upper respiratory issues. My personal health declined, I was in and out of walk-in clinics. I was prescribed inhaler after inhaler and my childhood asthma came back.

I hit my health insurance deductible for the first time during my tenure that year the COVID-19 mask mandate lifted, and I have hit it ever since.

The air quality in the schools is affecting the health of not only the staff but our children who are Pre-K through Grade 2. We support your efforts to move forward with these bills, but we urge you to go farther for schools like OE in Windsor and to make sure that every school district has the opportunity to get grants and assistance, especially with the most urgent needs.

Teacher

Anonymous

Oliver Ellsworth School