

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I am writing because I feel strongly that these pending bills will not approve the educational options for students in the state of Connecticut.

I am a graduate of Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington, CT, and I grew up in Harwinton, CT. I currently live in the 77th CT House District in Bristol, which is also the 1st Senate District. I am a voting CT citizen, and I am a product of a regional school district that works, and should not be combined with any other districts.

My parents moved from Bristol to Harwinton when I was 15 months old, because my mother had worked in the Bristol school system and knew that it was not as high quality as the one in Harwinton and Burlington. They had the ability and the right to choose where I went to school, and I received an excellent education because of it.

The current system allows parents to choose where their students go to school. Combining pieces of existing districts with other school systems is a careless, irresponsible idea that will not benefit the citizens and students of CT. The system is functioning as it is now, and while certain districts could regionalize further, they should be allowed to make that decision on their own.

I urge you to strongly consider other options before adopting this "one size fits all" approach for school districts in our state.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,
Emma Avery