

February 27, 2019

To: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to be on record to let you know that I clearly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874. As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose these bills and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

I moved to Wilton, CT for the schools as I have a young son and daughter, and existing high quality of the schools and education are what keep us here. The bills, as well as any future similar bills, will erode the quality and character of our local schools, which will furthermore erode the quality and character of our town. I grew up in Cleveland, was educated in a very large school district, and am well acquainted with the lower quality education provided by large school districts as well as their lackluster administrator and community engagement. I also know a current educator in the Norwalk city schools and the stories that she tells me of the Norwalk school system letting students fall through the cracks as they are driven by budgetary constraints are deplorable. My children are very precious to me and I have worked very hard to be able to afford a house in Wilton. If any of these bills or similar bills are passed, I will have no option other than to leave the state of CT and move to NY so that my children can be a part of the Westchester County schools. If you would like to retain families like ours in the state of CT as we do contribute to the tax base as six-digit income family, I strongly suggest that the schools be left as they are currently functioning and operating.

I would also like to note that I was a part of the "Blue Wave" in voting Democrat in November 2018. I am very upset that these bills have all been proposed by members of the Democratic party. If any of these bills are passed or any other bills like them, I will wholeheartedly join a "Red Wave" in voting in 2020.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Heather Christopher
Wilton, CT