

Regarding Bills: SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874

Chairman 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.

My family recently moved to Harwinton for the small hometown feel we have been wanting & working towards for years. One of the main reasons for picking Harwinton was the school system. We have been extremely happy with Region 10 and the services our son has been receiving there for the past year at Harwinton Consolidated School.

Prior to this we had been living in Bristol and my son had only qualified for 15 minutes of speech therapy a week. We went to numerous meetings to try for more but were denied each time. We looked into private speech therapy which we could not afford at the time. We were left with no other option for our child who was falling behind other than to move to a town with a better school system. Immediately our son qualified for over an hour of speech therapy and his class would also receive visits from several different teachers including speech throughout the week. This speaks solely to the amazing teachers and therapists he sees every week along with the administration who placed him there. We recently went to a parent/teacher conference where his teacher told us our son was an “academic leader” in the classroom. We walked out of the meeting so happy and n we knew we made the right decision moving to this district for our son and for our family!

Everyone in the school is so welcoming and happy to help him. I cannot wait for our youngest son to get to go to this amazing school. The class sizes are smaller so he is never left out of feeling left behind. When we visit everyone knows his name. This is the type of school I want my children to experience and the type of school we moved here for. Please do not change the regionalization of our schools. There are so many of us that are so proud of our town schools and want to keep it that way. If the schools were to change the regionalization it would change everything that we love and moved to this town for. We would rather our children spend more time in the classrooms with their amazing teachers then on the buses, driving to far away towns. I know its cliché but it fits; “If it’s not broke.... Don’t fix it!” We love Region 10 and want to keep it the amazing way that it is!

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I’m happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Charles W Grey III

Proud Resident of Harwinton CT in Region 10