

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ken Lundquist, I'm writing you today to voice my opposition to proposals SB457/738. This past fall, my young family and I have recently moved to the town of Cheshire. We chose this town specifically for its school districts and felt it would be an excellent community to raise our two young (4 & 2 year old) children. Prior to selecting Cheshire, we assessed several similar school districts closer to the Hartford area. Cheshire stood out as a lovely smaller town, with an excellent school system (our primary factor), and good property values.

As I'm sure you well aware, CT housing costs and town taxes are closely aligned with the educational quality and offerings of each town. While I understand and agree w/the spirit of this bill – improving the education of all CT children and lowering administrative costs – I believe there are much better ways to address this. Residents of these smaller towns, under the 40,000 threshold, like Cheshire, move here and pay a premium to do so, both in housing costs and town taxes, specifically for their school systems. These schools are supported by the costs the town residents **choose** to pay. In fact, just recently Cheshire residents approved additional expenditures and budget increases to its schooling systems.

In short, I believe town residents should continue to have the right to choose how best to educate their children. Whether they choose to maintain their existing school systems, or combine & redistrict, this should be a **town choice**.

I implore you to not move forward on these proposals and to continue to allow smaller CT communities the right to choose how their children are educated and maintain their appeal and value with younger families, such as mine.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns, please feel free to correspond further.

Ken Lundquist
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