

***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.***

***This letter is to express my objection to redistricting or consolidating school services and school districts in CT in order to simply help balance budget. While it might make sense from a top level administrative level, this will be a disaster in application. My family specifically moved from NYC to Darien CT for its school system, relatively reasonable commute back into the city and lower taxes. Since we have moved approximately 7 years ago, the commute time on Metro North has increased ~20% and taxes have increased with lower services. It is not surprising that General Electric and other corporations abandoned CT for Boston and other tax and business friendly locations.***

***Now CT is proposing the redistricting and consolidations of school systems impacting the one major reason why we moved here. I moved to Darien for the Darien schools, not Norwalk or Stamford school systems. The PTO and members of my local elementary school spend quite a bit of time volunteering at our school (Royle) in order to defray costs that would otherwise accumulate and pressure taxes. Perhaps other districts that are having financial issues craft a plan to increase their volunteering to save money and help their own school before leeching onto another system. Take a look at the number of high tax homes up for sale now in Fairfield county. This is indicative of the many families who have had it with CT. These bills will certainly hasten the exodus.***

***Thank you again for reading my testimony.***

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