

Testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874

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.

My name is Nickia Muraskin, and I am writing to urge you to oppose all school regionalization bills. I graduated from Wilton High School in the Class of 2017, and I currently study mechanical engineering and biomedical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. I would have delivered this testimony in person, but I am in the midst of furthering my education through a long week of midterm exams.

I attended Wilton Public Schools from kindergarten through twelfth grade, and my brother is a current junior at Wilton High School. In these last fifteen years, my father has spent over a year of his life commuting to his job, which is still in Manhattan. I can assure you that he does not continue to spend hours a day on Metro-North for the sake of Connecticut's beautiful autumn leaves.

While parents decide where to live, and thereby where they pay taxes, children are Connecticut's future. The primary focus of any education policy should be its impact on students, not its impact on the budget. If this legislature seeks to increase diversity in Connecticut's schools and equity among its students, as it should, then create well-researched policies to achieve these aims. Do not mask noble efforts as a way to increase efficiency, especially when studies show that school regionalization often fails to fulfill financial goals.

I urge you to oppose any legislation that could to forced regionalization of public schools and instead further study ways to improve educational outcomes throughout the state while improving the state's finances.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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