

Ana & Alberto Carreno  
Darien, CT 06820

February 28th, 2019

Dear Education Committee,

We hope this letter finds you well. It has come to our attention the proposed bills 454, 456 and 458, which may result in the consolidation of school districts in order to reduce costs. We are very concerned with the impact such bills may potentially have on the quality of public schools in Darien. Because of this, we would like take this opportunity to respectfully express our full opposition to the above mentioned bills, and kindly request that you reconsider your position on this matter.

We have lived in Connecticut since 2004 and in Darien since 2010. We are the parents of two children who attend Darien Public Schools, one of them in high school and the other one in middle school. Our younger child is in the Autism spectrum and receives special services through his school.

Through the years, as our boys have develop from children to teenagers, we have witnessed the positive impact that the Darien public schools have had on their development as individuals. They have greatly benefited from the smaller class sizes, teacher quality, and wide range of extracurricular/developmental activities. Both of them are growing to become self assured, hard working, and compassionate individuals. We are confident that as adults they will become positive role models, and good and decent members of their community. They will be achieve these, and hopefully more, in no small measure as a result of the high quality education received in Darien Public Schools.

As we all know, Connecticut has a relatively high state income tax, and Darien a high property tax. For us, any reduction in the quality of the public school education in Darien would mean looking for private education alternatives and relocating to another State in the New York metropolitan area, where we belief our tax dollars are spent more in accordance to what we believe is the best use of the money.

We urge you to take these bills off the table until more research is done and there is enough proof that these will benefit the majority of the Connecticut students, and not just to reduce costs without regard to the quality of education in our public schools. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ana & Alberto Carreno