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Date: 3/26/2019

**TITLE: Testimonial of concern regarding proposed bill 738 and 457**

To whom it may concern,

**I am strongly in opposition to bills 738 and 457.** I'd like to express my deep concern of the Governors proposed bills 738 and 457. I feel that it deeply compromises the unique educational experiences that individual school districts have fostered here in Connecticut. I realize that this is a cost savings initiative, but the cost for our students is simply too high. Over the last three days, I have ready many articles regarding this topic and most are unfavorable. Longer bus rides, higher student to teacher ratio's, and reducing the staffing in Connecticut is simply not the way to make our community stronger.

Over the last five to ten years, I've witnessed our once busy roadside loose family after family. There are currently ten houses for sale on my short road and the houses sit there unsold. My wife and I have always felt that education in Connecticut at least was worth staying for, but without a continued effort by the state to maintain our current individual town's schools, we will soon be looking for a new state. Further, our investment in Connecticut will likely not pay off since we are competing with so many other families looking to leave.

Please consider leaving the school systems alone. Our children's future truly depend on a cutting edge educational that is not a regional system.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey DelMastro