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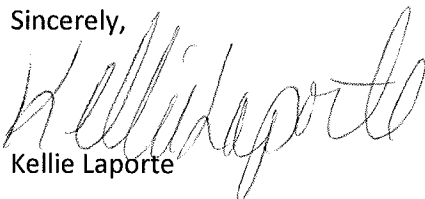
In Re: S.B. 457, S.B. 738, S.B. 874

Chairman McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on S.B. 457, S.B. 738 and S.B. 874.

My husband and I moved to Wolcott years ago because of the smaller population and due to the excellent school system. We both came from small towns originally. My husband is from Terryville, and I am from Spruce Head, Maine. We both attended small schools. We did not want our children attending school in a larger district for many reasons; namely, student to teacher ratio, a greater chance of bullying since there are more kids in a larger school district, a greater chance our children could be exposed to things kids shouldn't be exposed to or influenced by at a young age, and we wanted to be part of a small close school family. We chose Wolcott. We purposely did not choose Waterbury or another large town.

Regionalization would ruin our school, and it would be very troubling for our children. Our Board of Education members, administrators and teachers are amazing. Our test scores are high even though we have one of the lowest dollars per student. Our students come from amazing families who have taught their children to work hard, to respect everyone, to earn their way, to have morals, and to support one another. They come from good families. Most of the students go off to college or a trade school and become productive members of our society. We do not need to regionalize with any other school district. We are great all on our own. Therefore, I respectfully request that mandatory regionalization does not take place in the State of Connecticut. Leave that decision to the towns and cities to come to their own decisions when it comes to regionalization. Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Kellie Laporte