

Mr. Robert Sanchez, Co-Chair
Mr. Douglas McRory, Co-Chair
CT General Assembly, Education Committee

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2/25/2019

Public Hearing Date: 3/1/2019

Testimony in opposition to SB 738

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Education Committee:

I am submitting this written testimony because I am unable to attend the Public Hearing scheduled for Friday, March 1st, 2019. I am a lifelong Resident of Clinton, CT, except for 8 years that I was away on Active Duty with the United States Marine Corps. When I discharged from the Marines, I chose to settle back in my hometown and start a family. I did this because of the small-town charm that Clinton provides, as well as the education system that I myself was brought up in. One of the most important aspects of our society is to raise intelligent, well-rounded children who are able to learn at their own pace, to a standard that society benefits from. As Maria Montessori once said, "Early Childhood Education is the key to the Betterment of Society". I am opposed to this bill for many reasons. While it is mostly true that the education system as a whole could realize cost savings from consolidation, it comes at a terrible cost. According to UNLV's Lincy Institute: consolidation drastically reduces student performance, while causing Compensation Costs to skyrocket and District Accountability to fall¹.

Small towns historically and consistently win the Educational Quality battle. This is because of local control over district structure, personnel, and curriculum. Towns also have better control over fiscal accountability, which would be lost should the State Department of Education grab hold of the purse strings. Much of the money that would be reallocated from the towns would end up in the state coffers, causing the large cities in our state to directly benefit and the towns to suffer. Larger districts mean larger classrooms with higher teach/student ratios, which in turn lowers outcomes.

This plan would have a detrimental effect on the small towns within our once great state. The only parties who would benefit from this plan are the cities in CT who already have over 40,000 students. If the Committee is being honest with its' constituents, they would be calling this a tax redistribution scheme and not an educational restructuring.

Sincerely,

James G. Norrie Jr.

¹ https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/Lincy-ModernizingNevada.pdf