

February 28, 2019

Dear: Chairman McCrorary and Sanchez  
Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty  
Esteemed members of the Education Committee

RE: S.B. 457, An Act Concerning the Size of School Districts  
S.B. 738, An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts  
S.B. 874, An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I am a mother of 10 year old twins who attend Wakelee Elementary School in Wolcott, CT. My girls have been attending school since they were 3 months old, first Generali School of Literature, then Naugatuck Valley Community College Early Childhood Development Center, and now Wakelee Elementary School, and during that time, they were always very shy, and some things were overlooked because of their shyness. However, because of the great work that the teachers of Wolcott do for the student population, it was discovered that my girls had a slight learning disability. I am afraid this would have gone unnoticed if it wasn't for the attention and dedication that the Wolcott teachers provide to their students, and because of that dedication, my girls have gotten the help they need. I believe the size of the classrooms and the work of the teachers in Wolcott prevented my girls from going unnoticed, and just falling through the cracks. Thankfully they have been getting the help they need to allow them to succeed today and in the future, and I am so grateful for that.

The students in Wolcott, specifically Wakelee, because that's the one school I see firsthand, are respectful, kind and very well behaved, which makes me so proud of our kids our town and our teachers. Wolcott worked very hard to get the reputation of having the best schools, and the thought of regionalization really concerns me. The students will not get the attention they need, the class sizes will increase, and with more students means less supervision, which means disaster.

Wolcott has only one Middle School and one High School, so I'm confused on how anyone would think that it would benefit any student to cut education costs and force these poor students to attend a school that they would go unrecognized and would just become a number.

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I'm happy to answer any question you may have.

Linda Pestretto  
Wolcott, CT