

February 28,2019

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

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

I am a resident of Wilton and parent to a child enrolled in the Wilton public school system. I am writing to state my opposition to SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I purchased a home in Wilton 18 years ago. My choice was based on the high quality of the local school system. The Wilton schools have a reputation for providing excellent education to our children. This reputation draws residents who are likeminded in their support of quality education. We residents work alongside educators and administrators to shape and foster not only the traditional classroom learning but also an excellent variety of extracurricular activities. Personally, I have seen my child develop through academics, sports and music programs offered in the schools. In addition, due to the willingness of the residents to support such our school, a vast ecosystem has developed which extends the experience across the entire town. Changing the school structure will negatively impact this balance and threaten the quality of life and caliber of individuals who reside in the town.

These three bills lack substance. There are no requirements for minimum educational standards, limits to the class size, limits to the distance children will travel or one sentence to illustrate the state cares about the educational needs of its children. They simply focus on number of residents and number of children. We should not be discussing bills which lack these fundamental and crucial points.

The school system keeps me in Wilton. I will move from Connecticut if any changes occur which allow regionalization to be forced upon our education system.

Thank you for your attention.

Regards,

David Rovere

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