

Laura Dotson

21 Glen Road
North Branford CT 06471

February 26, 2019

RE: Bill S.B. 738 And S. B. 457

Dear Representtives,

I would like to make an attempt to have my family's voice heard in reference to the above proposed bills. My husband and I have a five year old Kindergartener that would be affected by what you are proposing. We chose to raise her in the small town of North Branford for the exact reason, that it's a SMALL town. When she walks thru the doors at Jerome Harrison Elementary school they know her, not just that she's one of the students that belongs in one of the classes somewhere, but her NAME and who her teacher is... Other class room teachers, as well as our wonderful principal, Beth Parker, know my daughters name.

Merging with other towns will change this I'm sure. Will she still get a good education in our public school system in a town farther away, I hope so. Her drive down the road on the bus every morning and afternoon that takes twenty five minutes, give or take with stops, may now be over an hour commute. After school will I get her to the Taekwondo class she loves on time, probably not. Other towns don't to my knowledge have bigger schools with available empty classrooms ready to take on our North Branford children. We will find ourselves with students spending more time commuting, less after school time for extracurricular activity and homework

Sincerely yours,

Urna Semper