

February 26, 2019

Testimony of Darien, CT resident Andy Von Kennel

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing us to submit testimony on SB 738.

For quick context my wife and I chose Darien, CT as the town to raise our family back in January 2008. We chose Darien largely due to the fantastic public school system. We are incredibly happy with our Darien public school experience with both our children completing elementary school at the Holmes School and now both attending Middlesex Middle School. Both our children have received varying levels of services. Darien schools are the absolute best in our eyes and we encourage any young families we meet to live in Darien to enjoy the fantastic schools.

Thus, we are confused if not terrified of the current proposal for SB 738. We see the current system as working and do not understand the change. We respect your hard work and thus think asking question might be our best course:

How will SB 738 serve us and our state?

Is there data to support SB 738?

What metrics will demonstrate this service to CT?

Of the existing 15 regional high schools, what works and what doesn't?

Our state cannot afford to experiment on our schools and children's education.

Thank you again for hearing our testimony.

Sincerely,

Andy and Ali Von Kennel

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