

My name is Arielle Annecharico and I was born and raised in Connecticut. I grew up in Marlborough and attended RHAM Middle and High School and now reside in East Hampton.

I wish to testify against the bills 457, 738 and SB 874.

I understand there may be some perceived benefits of consolidating school districts and resources however, I do not feel these benefits will ultimately outweigh the downside. I also feel that these bills are stepping on the toes of people's choice. The less input the government has in people's right to choose where and what type of education they want for themselves and their children the better.

As a local example, Marlborough is already a part of a school district and pays significantly higher taxes than next door East Hampton, which has it's on K-12 school system. Also signing these bills into law will force RHAM to break up as a school district leading to higher costs for tax payers in that area.

I think that the state should focus it's time, energy and resources into assisting the towns/districts that already exist and need assistance rather than trying to destroy school systems and districts that already work.

RHAM is a good school system and East Hampton has a good school system. One is a district and one is a town system. Both are good in their own right. Why mess with a good thing?

I am against these bills and I hope that the state will make the right decision in choosing to make the education system better in other ways. Please do not pass these bills into law.

Thank you.

Arielle Annecharico