

Andrey Belov, Ph.D.
113 Jelliff Mill Road,
New Canaan, CT 06840

February 27, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am petitioning to you to repeal bills S.B 457, S.B. 738, S.B. 874. These ill-conceived bills aim to deprive Connecticut communities of local voice in critical aspects impacting our children's education. If adopted, these initiatives will be highly counterproductive to the state's educational system and its budgetary resources, as their intended administrative savings will be far outweighed by the negative impact on Connecticut's fiscal health through weakening local community ties, undermining real estate values, prompting more high-income residents to leave the state, and inevitably impairing your progressive educational agenda.

As highlighted by Alex Bergstein, CT Senate District 36 representative, Connecticut's fiscal health as the number one priority: "Nothing else can work if we don't have a healthy economy." Specifically, she mentioned the importance to "retain high-net-worth people who would bring a lot more into the public coffers." The key pillar that keeps high earners in Connecticut and supports state income and property tax revenues is the top-quality school system with strong sense of local community involvement and empowerment in issues impacting our children's education. Personally, this is the only reason that keeps me in Connecticut, in spite of a nearly two-hour commute to the Wall Street from New Canaan. The ill-conceived bills S.B 457, S.B. 738, S.B. 874 aim to destroy this local community voice and connection. If they are allowed to continue, you will see not just our family, but many more high earners consider leaving the state and depriving it of the financial and political support. Please take a stand against bills S.B 457, S.B. 738, S.B. 874, as they will inevitably do far more damage to Connecticut's fiscal and educational resources than the administrative cost savings they aim to generate. Please defend our rights for local voice in education, so we will continue to stand behind your efforts for better, stronger Connecticut.

Best regards,

Andrey Belov, Ph.D.