



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Public Hearing
March 1, 2019

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF:

**HOUSE BILL 7150: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING EDUCATION.**

SENATE BILL 874: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

SENATE BILL 457: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

SENATE BILL 738: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Dear Co-Chairmen Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez; Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty; and distinguished members of the Education Committee thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of HB-7150, SB-874, SB-457 and SB-738.

Leave my schools alone.

As a state representative, I have the privilege of representing almost 4,000 students and 2 individual school districts. Cromwell and Portland are full of dedicated educators, passionate parents, and amazing kids. My community is more than qualified to determine what size of school district is best. Respectfully said, please leave my schools alone so we can make the best decisions for our kids.

As a parent, I have 2 young children in our public schools. Both children have different strengths and aspirations, but each child excels. Their success is due to the ability of a neighborhood school to support the individual needs of the students it serves and a local board of education which is accountable to the people it serves.

As a resident, I have witnessed the sense of community that stems from a local school district. Cromwell and Portland schools go well beyond a learning center for our youth. They are the very fabric of our towns.

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As a student, I attended school in 2 very different communities. In one district I was a number. I was no different from any other student living under a county government system, a single student in a very large regional district with more than half a dozen elementary schools, 3 large junior highs, 2 massive high schools, and layers of administrators. The second district was truly one where everybody knew your name. That much smaller district, with local teachers and a sense of community spirit, was a place where no student could hide and everyone could succeed. It was a sense of pride for the entire town.

The only people qualified to make these choices for Cromwell and Portland are the people of Cromwell and Portland.

Christie M. Carpino
State Representative 32nd District
Proudly serving Cromwell and Portland