

Bills SB457, SB738, and SB874

Chairman McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB457, SB 738 and SB 874.

My husband and I moved to Ridgefield, CT from Yonkers, NY. The reason we moved up here was due to the fact that I was pregnant and we wanted to give our child and any future children the best education possible. We were originally looking to stay in Westchester but after seeing the school systems in Ridgefield we were amazed by the high quality educational system and the support provided to students by the town. We loved that our kids would be able to thrive in a close-knit community where we would have a direct say in their education. We saw the detriment that local school regionalization had in Yonkers and did not want our children to suffer the consequences of that. My husband in fact grew up in Yonkers and was forced to attend private school in order to avoid the school systems there. We both work full time very hard to afford where we live and pay the taxes that support Ridgefield's excellent school system. If Connecticut goes forward with regionalizing the schools we will absolutely be moving out of the state as we will not continue to pay high taxes for a school system that we have little say in and is only further subsidizing other school districts.

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Brittany Coogan

Ridgefield, CT