

To: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

From: Matthew Dell Orfano, Darien

Regarding: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Date: 2/28/19

- As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.
 - I am opposed to these bills becoming study bills as the overhang will cause uncertainty and adversely impact the decisions that current administrations need to make today to ensure the safety and education of our children.

- Some considerations for me include:
 - The proposals do not include basis or any evidence or research to ensure that they fulfill the purported purpose of increased efficiency.
 - Quality and effectiveness measures are not a consideration of the bills; I would not want the Education Committee to allow anything without such considerations to proceed.
 - The schools are the reason we live in the community and we would likely leave the state were it not for the current system, as it exists.
 - The local control of the schools would be demised decreasing the value and stability of the communities that center around education as a priority – this would likely lead to more out of state departures and lower tax base, especially areas close to state lines where folks have alternative living choices.
 - This could compound economic and revenue problems in the state.
 - The news of these bills is already permeating the market for real estate and lowering the ability for brokers, contractors, and local businesses to benefit from the normal annual influx of new residents who move here for the schools.
 - As a participant in several businesses that hire and employ locally; should this impact my decision to stay it will likely result in lower employment for residents in CT and the surrounding communities
 - This would likely be an irreversible trend and cause increased economic hardship across all towns and areas.

- I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.