

Testimony Regarding SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874

Submitted by:

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2/28/19

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

In this testimony I will not address the strong questions as to whether school district consolidation will truly generate efficiencies state-wide. I will leave that to those more knowledgeable than myself on this topic. I would instead like to focus on the extreme injustice that school district consolidation would impose.

In 2016, at the age of 28, I relocated from New Hampshire to Connecticut. I did so with great hesitation due to the numerous concerning trends and economic indicators throughout the state. While so many others have chosen to flee the state of Connecticut, I ultimately I chose to take a leap of faith by purchasing a home in the town of Prospect, CT later that same year.

I saw this as a calculated risk. My hope was that the promising career opportunity that lay ahead of me would be enough to outweigh the potential decline in property values and economic stability throughout much of the state. I was a unmarried/single at that time and my priorities did not include being in a strong school district (other than the extent to which it affected property values).

My priorities have since expanded. My girlfriend of 2 years and her 6 year-old daughter have recently moved in and now live with me (in part due to the strong local school system). This was a leap of faith on their part. All of this occurred just prior to us learning about these proposals to consolidate school districts.

Both she and I work full time and we've never really had the spare time to follow local and state politics as much as we'd like to, but this issue has forced us to pay closer attention as it threatens our livelihood. It threatens the quality of education our child and future children stand to receive. It threatens the value of the home we live in. We have worked hard to build a quality life for ourselves and it would be, as I mentioned earlier, an extreme injustice for this quality to be unfairly diminished.

I ask for those in position to prevent such bills from becoming law to think of us, and of all the others who took a similar leap of faith as we did, and who now stand to be punished for it.

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

Regards,
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