

To whom it may concern,

While I would much prefer to give this testimony in person, my work commitments do not allow me to be in Hartford on Friday.

I simply want to register my strong opposition to the two bills captioned above and all attempts to regionalize school systems on a forced basis. I was raised and now live in the town of Wilton and cannot think of a more destructive bill to our town than 874. I am a firm believer that better education should be available to all students in CT but these bills do nothing to make that a reality. I am not the product of a wealthy family; my father (a college professor) and mother (a secretary) never owned a home in Wilton. Rather, they rented for over 15 years while my brother and I attended the Wilton school system. This sacrifice is one that I will always be grateful for as it gave me the foundation to go on to college and ultimately be successful in the business world. I believe all families should have a choice to make a similar sacrifice and this bill would destroy the Wilton school system altogether thereby eliminating a similar path for future families.

We need real reform of the state pension system and new programs to improve our education system for all children in the state but these bills do not achieve that and I am opposed to both of them.

Respectfully,

Greg Hendrick

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