

Connecticut Legislators.

February 26, 2019

My name is Matthew Kieras and I am submitting this testimony in **total opposition** of Governor's Bill No. 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT. Introduced by SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist. SEN. DUFF, 25th Dist. REP. ARESIMOWICZ, 30th Dist. REP. RITTER M., 1st Dist.

I have grave concerns with this bill, and others like it such as **SB 454 and SB 457 that I oppose also**, moving the state towards the regionalization of school districts. First, the addition of multiple layers of “red tape” found in this bill would not enhance or further the education of students in public schools. Second, this bill punishes families that have worked and sacrificed in order to be able to live in “smaller” towns that they consider to have successful and high achieving school systems. As an experienced public school teacher, my final concern is that this bill could affect my ability for taking care of my family by changing where I work and what my salary and benefits will be.

One final thought is that upon reading this bill a few sections that refer to “home school” education. What a subtle attack on liberty this is. The one part that really disturbs me is that I would need to be “registered” with a public school system to home school. That is a very slippery slope indeed! These sections and references are completely unnecessary and should not be present at all in this bill or any others. The state and or local districts should be focused on the students enrolled in public schools and in best serving those students. Families that home educate are doing so in the best interest of their children and should be extended respect and courtesy for that decision, like my family.

It is my hope that you will **oppose** in totality SB 874 and all similar bills that will lead to regionalization of school districts. **Oppose** any bill that would lead to studying school district regionalization. **Oppose** any bill or all language in any bill that references home school or home education.

Regards, Matthew Kieras
E. Hartford, CT