

Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Members of the Education Committee

I am submitting testimony today in opposition of SB 738, 457 and 874

As a parent of children in public schools, two of whom have IEPs, the lack of inclusion and/or specific discussion surrounding access to special education, delivery models, staffing and class size is concerning. I cannot support these proposals without a detailed understanding of how special education will be addressed, while still meeting the standards of IDEA, specifically FAPE ( Free Appropriate Public Education) in the LRE ( Least Restrictive Environment.)

Access to special education services is challenging at best. We specifically chose to live in Simsbury, and pay extremely high taxes, for the school districts renowned special education program. Will my high taxes now go to subsidize larger classrooms, fewer teachers and services in a larger territory? Will my children with special needs need to ride a bus for an additionally long period of time to get to school? (I question the cost effectiveness of this scenario, but most importantly question how a longer bus ride will impact a student's day.)

I have additional concerns that in the language of the proposed commission (SB 874), there is no mention of anyone representing the field of special education listed as potential member. I would request that at least one stakeholder in the special education field be added to the commission.

I am happy to answer further questions should you have them.

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