

To whom this may concern:

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.

My name is Logan G Luo. I am a resident of Wilton Connecticut; and a father of three (4, 6, and 7 years old). I am writing to you to express my deepest concerns of Bill 738/454 and SB 874. Bill 738/454 and SB 874 will not save cost as it proposed but increase the bureaucracy, deteriorate education quality, and hurt the local economy.

First of all, according to some researches, in terms of lowering costs, the economic size of the school district is 2000- 4000 students. However, Bill 738/454 SB 874 proposed the mega school districts that are 20 times (two less than 40,000 student population school districts consolidated) more than the economic scale. This bill will not achieve its original purpose of saving cost but create more bureaucracy and increase the administrative cost at the end.

Second, Bill 738/454 and SB 874 has no regard for education quality, which is the primary interest of the students, parents, and educators in Connecticut. According to UNLV's Lincy Institutes and other researchers, student achievement is higher in smaller districts. This bill will create the mega school districts that will result in fewer cares and attention per student received. No parents would like to see this happens to their children.

Third, the consolidation will seriously damage the local economy. The property value in Wilton has been showing a downtrend after the breakout of the news. The local property value could have a cliff-fall after this bill is passed. Many parents and small business owners like me have started considering the possibility to move out of the state.

The bottom line, Bill 738/454 SB 874 will not save cost, but increase the bureaucracy, deteriorate education quality my children will receive, and hurt the local economy. This bill is not in the interests of Connecticut residents, who treasure the quality of the education.

A bill like Bill 738/454 and SB 874 will have profound impacts on my children and other students in Connecticut for years to come. I hope you will vote against these bills to protect the good school, and the quality of life we strive for our children.

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

Logan Luo