

Subject: VOTE AGAINST SB 738, SB 457, SB 874

Dear Education Committee;

I am writing to you as part of the State Leadership or Member of the Education committee. I strongly oppose SB738 and the 2000 student consolidation bill of Senator Duff SB 747; and the recent like Bill SB 874. I request that you strongly reject these bills in your hearings. They should not move out of committee.

I am opposed to these bills as they are so very poorly thought out, have no substance or evidentiary fact supporting their premises, and could result in significant degradation to a town's controlled and managed education process. They hurt the children of our schools and the education process provided to them. This is not a subject that the state should edict or mandate. There are many factual studies and outcome analyses that demonstrate that mandated consolidations fail especially if they strip the authority of educational management from the citizens of an independent municipality. Any consolidation of any of the many functions within or between a school district(s) is the responsibility and authority of the school district citizens.

The failures of this state, and we all know the very serious and embarrassing financial situation are not caused by the education process. Many towns, and mine of Wilton, are addressing cost management including education and its efficiency of operation. We also know that the state's problems are borne of a top heavy state infrastructure, poor financial management, failure to address state governmental inefficiencies, legislation and regulations that drives employers, employees, and citizens out of the state, and excessive taxation.

So let me suggest you focus on creating a study, or better yet, a plan of action to address:

- Consolidation of state agencies and the duplicative services within each department
- A means to reduce headcount while maintaining services to the public
- A means to renegotiate the excessive union contracts for state employees
- A meaningful plan to encourage job creation through reduced business mandates
- A process to realign taxation to reduce the bleeding exodus of citizens caused by taxation
- And so on regarding state structure and cost...

Do the above, and please reject any bills that attempt to usurp the process of Town authority in managing their educational plans. We do it for the children and we do it well. Reject SB738, SB457, and SB874.

Sincerely,

Donald H. Sauvigne
Wilton CT