

February 28, 2019

Dear Sirs

Regarding bill # [S.B. No. 874](#) An Act Concerning Education Initiatives And Services In Connecticut.

I have been a CT resident and tax payer since 1974.

What attracted me to Connecticut back then when I established my business that now employs over 50 people was good public education for my children and a business friendly environment including no state income tax.

Over the years all I have seen is increased taxes and poorer services including public education so I had to remove my children from public school and had to pay for private school in addition to ever increasing taxes.

We all know that the state's finances have been mismanaged to the point that if it was a private company it would be bankrupt. Last year Hartford, the former home to the nation's best insurance companies in America, had to be bailed out by the state.

CT population is suffering from the exodus of many people to states like Florida where there are lower taxes and better services.

I personally know of several hedge fund billionaires who were longtime residents of CT who finally left costing the state literally hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue. And now the state government is proposing more and more taxes including tolls on the roads that will only drive more people away from CT and cost us more money in lost tax revenue. These policies have seriously injured the "geese's that were laying golden eggs" and if they continue will literally kill it as more and more successful CT residents are encouraged to flee the once great state.

Studies show that CT does not rank in the top 10 states in education while it does rank in the top 10 states in taxes with income tax, personal property tax including business equipment and automobiles and residences.

Studies further s show that the best schools are the Charter Schools that can set appropriate curriculum and compete for the best teachers and families literally compete for admission.

Einstein said to continue to do the same thing and expect different results is a form of insanity.

I implore you to take a different approach to education in CT

Instead of giving more control to the government with these plans to condense the school districts and gerrymander them, set up a state wide charter school system where the individual schools can compete for teachers and children with transparent results. Let the parents see which schools can produce the

best results for their children. Give the parents vouchers that they can “spend” the vouchers at schools that compete.

The outcome would be a much better school system and make Connecticut more attractive to families who will come and stay and pay taxes.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Jerry Simon

Stamford CT