

RE: Senate Bill 457, Senate Bill 738, and Governor's Bill SB 874

To the Education Committee,

Many of you have served in the House and Senate for multiple years. You have overseen our budgets and know what has happened, who voted for what, and how our state got into this fiscal crisis. Clearly, there has been a lack of leadership and vision in Hartford. So now we have 3 bills that ask students to pay for those mistakes. How fair is that? How do they deserve to have their schools and small districts ripped apart, because of where they live? Schools are often the scapegoats for flawed state accounting. The sponsors of these bills should be ashamed for proposing them, and withdraw them immediately.

I grew up here, moved to the west coast for 25 years, and then came back to Connecticut to raise my family and teach in an environment that I could trust and count on. If these changes occur, then many families like mine will look to other states where there is educational stability, where there is local control, and quality of education counts. As I am sure you are aware, the population of Connecticut continues to decline, and these bills will just increase that trend. Our leadership needs to focus on reasons to come and stay in Connecticut, instead of economically scapegoating small towns to make up for the past problems created in Hartford.

Thank you,

Andrew Snyder
Old Lyme, CT.