

To: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

My name is Marcin Staszyszyn and I live in Wilton. I am strongly opposing above bills for the following reasons:

1. Despite differences, the main theme of those bills is forced (or giving no real choice like in case of SB 874) reorganization of Connecticut school districts based on arbitrary criteria without any proof of effectiveness of such reorganization. The lack of specifics of the outcome is the first reason I am opposing such measures. The bills don't show how much state would save based on forced regionalization. Also some savings (like superintendent salaries) would affect town budgets rather than the state one
2. The most damaging outcome of the bills would be perception of state's power-grab over local control of the schools. The state has already put too much (often unfunded) burden (curriculum, special education) on the municipalities, but never tried such plain and simple takeover of the control over education. I believe this is the most important reason people oppose those bills. It's 'camel nose under tent' feeling, beginning of march towards complete control of the education by the state.
3. There is possibility new district may pursue policies not aligned with interest of residents of neither municipality forced to participate in the district. Also cost effectiveness is in doubt, examples of other states like New York and Illinois show that despite having 'unified' school districts, property taxes are far higher than in Connecticut
4. State legislators must understand that they can force their decision on people, especially those they not consider their political base, but they cannot force people to stay and abide those decisions. Residents have been fleeing the state for years and those ideas (regardless if bills pass or not) will cause more people out, especially better earners, furthering eroding tax base and property values. Not to mention people who will not move to the state because of the fear school quality can be affected

I sincerely believe above reasons, alongside with testimony of other people will help make right decision and reject above bills

Thank you,

Best Regards  
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