

December 16, 2021

Re: Proposed House District 30 Redistricting

Members of the Special Commission on Reapportionment:

By now you have received, and will continue to receive, testimony and comments from many residents, employees, and public officials of the Town of East Greenwich advocating for keeping the entirety of the town within House District 30. Hill and Harbor together comprise a single, historic neighborhood within our town. There is no question that our Harbor neighborhood is inextricably connected to the entirety of our town through the many shared services, including the crown jewel of our community – our public schools.

As members of the East Greenwich School Committee, we write to offer an additional perspective. By merging our Harbor neighborhood into a Warwick House district, our representation will be diluted to the detriment of the students of East Greenwich public schools. The students who will be suffer the greatest harm from a diluted representation are from low-income households, a large concentration of which are located in our Harbor neighborhood.

Warwick and East Greenwich are two very different school districts – in enrollment, demographics, and particularly regarding state funding. Between the volatility in state aid year-to-year, and the disproportionate allocation of additional funds intended for all students, but based on the Title I formula, the East Greenwich School District has to fight for every educational dollar it receives. We need strong representation in the House to represent **all** students in East Greenwich public schools.

To illustrate, below is cursory comparison of the percentage of the local tax levy that state education aid represents in each of Warwick and East Greenwich. EG consistently receives about 5-6% of the tax levy amount in state aid. In contrast, Warwick consistently receives 15-17%.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	EG levy	EG ed aid	pct	Warwick levy	Warwick ed aid	pct
FY2021	57933778	3490911	6%	250570704	38441937	15%
FY2020	56880197	2654889	5%	241374910	40544636	17%
FY2019	55981907	3167385	6%	235772202	37379213	16%
FY2018	56169911	2739941	5%	230002820	39146338	17%
FY2017	57019409	2810467	5%	233268842	38252521	16%
FY2016	55443802	2911576	5%	229189681	36764894	16%
FY2015	53345608	2469554	5%	222498782	36064778	16%

A representative of a district primarily comprised of Warwick residents, along with EG’s Harbor neighborhood, will not be able to serve both Warwick and EG effectively on education funding. As a direct result of this diluted representation, our students stand to lose critical co-curricular programming offered in our schools - particularly students whose families cannot afford extras

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such as private tutoring, travel sports teams, private music lessons, and exposure to theatre and art experiences.

Now more than ever, we need focused, zealous representation on behalf of **all** students in public schools. We urge you to adopt House Plan A, and reject any plan that will separate our Harbor neighborhood from the rest of its town.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Anne Musella
Chair, East Greenwich School Committee

Dr. Eugene Quinn
Member, East Greenwich School Committee