

Hello – my name is John Levin and I live in Norwalk.

Reading from Sunday's Hartford Courant: "Opponents say efforts to eliminate racial and economic segregation by challenging zoning rules, whether through legislation or in the courts, would usurp local control of land use decisions, a long-held principle cherished by some in Connecticut."

The opponents are absolutely correct about that: efforts to address the disgraceful racial and economic segregation maintained by many Connecticut towns really would usurp local control of land use decisions. But the facts of school segregation and housing segregation in our state are stark. And it's local control of zoning and housing that largely explains why the five towns that surround Norwalk operate public school systems that are effectively all white and with virtually no kids from poor families. This pattern has been exhibited statewide for over a century. Sadly, it is removal of local control over land use that now is needed to correct these inequities and to allow our state to move forward for all of its citizens. Please support both HB 6611 and SB 1024 for one simple reason: it is the right thing to do and now is the right time.

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