

My name is Leslie Wertam, and I have just completed twelve years on the Board of Education of Regional School District #11, and nine years as its Chairman. I am writing to you today to respectfully request you vote against the change to CGS 10-63c being proposed in Bill 6493. There are several reasons for this position.

- The proposed change is very specific to RD#11 and is being proposed strictly to enable one town in the district to justify its desire to leave the district. The Connecticut General Statutes should not be altered in such a narrow way. What is the justification for using the arbitrary population number of 6000? Why not 5000, or 7000?

- The citizens of RD#11 voted on the question to initiate a Dissolution Study Committee with the clear understanding of how the final vote would be tabulated. To change the process now, with the Committee's work nearly completed, is disingenuous.

- The statute as written shows great wisdom and respect for students and faculty. The process of change in the district is an aggregate tally per the statute governing additional/withdrawal of grades, as it should be. But the absolute dissolution of a district MUST make sense for and be the desire of all parties involved.

- At this hard economic time in which we find ourselves, it is unconscionable to propose a change to the statute that would

make dissolution of an existing regional school, and force member towns to request State and local funding for the inevitable new arrangements that would be necessary for their students.

- What should be studied and brought forward at this time, perhaps, is the total regionalization of the towns in RD#11 on a Pre-K through 12 basis. This would result in much greater efficiency, and stop the costly and exhausting infighting going on now.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I would be happy to discuss this matter at any time. I can be reached at 860-455-1124. Leslie Wertam