

Feb 27th 2019

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Reasons for Opposition:

- We do not believe that forcing school districts to regionalize is appropriate. It is unfair to all residents.
- We moved here for the schools, and existing school quality is what keeps us here.
- Regionalizing the school districts according to these bills will NOT create a more efficient school system and will jeopardize locally controlled education.
- Some studies have shown that small schools demonstrate higher achievement levels among students.
- It's easier to develop more meaningful connections among staff, students and parents in small schools.
- None of these bills talk anything about quality of education.
- Think about the transportation of those students going from one place to another, kids may now be on a bus going to a school not in their area, not in their town, and not in their neighborhood for an hour in the morning and an hour in the evening. The costs of these are astounding.

- These 3 bills generated so much uncertainty. Everyone is adversely affected, from parents, students, teachers, administrators, current residents and even prospective residents.
- In turn such uncertainty will deter new residents and new business investment and depressing our state's real estate and economy.

Keerthi Balasubramanium
Middlebury, CT - 06762