

To whom it may concern-

It has been brought to my attention over the past several weeks, the proposed regionalization of our schools in the state of Connecticut. I am taking time out of my day to write this testimony, because I am part of the nearly unanimous opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

The Board of Education in every community in the state of Connecticut has spent years developing and honing the best education platform for their respective community. Given the varying demographics of the State of Connecticut, by no means is the best platform for one community, the best platform for another community. **More importantly, there is absolutely no evidence that regionalization will improve our kids' education or even save taxpayers any money. If anything, regionalizing schools will harm our communities and hurt disadvantaged students.**

When considering regionalization, the top concern for the State officials should be the long-term impact on the quality of Connecticut's current education system. Research suggests the best overall academic achievements are in elementary schools with fewer than 500 students and high schools with fewer than 1,000. **By regionalizing schools, class sizes will increase thereby diminishing the quality of the education and disadvantaged students will no longer be able to keep up, resulting in more dropouts. The State is proposing to set our kids up for failure!!** Additionally, students will have much longer commutes to school and parent involvement and participation in extracurricular activities will go down. **It's very hard for me to comprehend how the proposed regionalization ultimately improves the quality of our State's education system.**

History suggests regionalization is not the answer. It has failed in Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Vermont. Why are local officials wasting our time and our tax dollars on a system with a failing track record?? **Unambiguously rejecting these bills would save Connecticut from a fiscal, educational, and economic mistake that others have made but we can still avoid.**

As for me specifically, my husband I chose to buy a house in New Canaan because of the schools in our town. They have consistently been ranked amongst the best in the state, a factor that was very important to us when selecting a community for our family. Our local Board of Education, and the education platform they have built, is something that differentiates our town, and our schools, from neighboring towns. **To protect the extremely valuable education platform the New Canaan Board of Ed has built, I vehemently reject the proposed regionalization. Education is by no means "one fits all".**

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