

February 28, 2019

To: Members of the Connecticut Education Committee

As an educator and a parent of two former 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. While there is not a great deal of information specific to these bills, as a fiscally responsible, registered Democrat, I have significant concerns about impact regionalization of any kind would have on communities throughout the state. My objection stems from years working in an urban school setting. I have had a hands-on opportunity to experience the unique differences between school communities in the state and firmly believe that consolidation is not the answer. While these bills may serve a temporary "fiscal" fix (although there seems to be little research to support even that notion), they do nothing to support the educational needs of our children. Community control is paramount in terms of the educational decision making needed to address the needs specific to each district. Regionalized control would limit the ability to serve all students.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Barbara Boller, Ed.D
381 Old Stamford Rd
New Canaan, CT. 06840