

Christopher Bowen

“See More of Seymour”

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Date

To the Connecticut Senate:

I am writing in relation to S.B. 457, which would force regional districts of 2,000 students.

This consolidation of town resources into school districts, against the wishes of said towns, is what a business would do address unprofitable sectors of their enterprise. However, our students are not just line items on a budget. They are people, with disparate needs, in towns that can best address their needs without the heavy hand of the state weighing them down. The plan to force consolidation would reduce opportunities for students to excel. It would reduce the opportunities afforded for after school programs, reduce the number of varsity athletes on sports teams, and potentially burden low-income families who need help in transporting their children to school and/or events.

These proposals also ignore the socioeconomic realities and concerns of neighbouring towns and cities, and the wishes of local constituents. It potentially forces towns like ours, who have effectively dealt with previously burdensome state budget cuts, into merging with other communities who have not adequately addressed their own needs, or whose political situations are more in flux. The town of Seymour and the Seymour Board of Education have planned well and addressed the needs of our community while dealing with the uncertainty coming from Hartford, and this would punish our town for that.

Instead of forcing everyone into a proverbial sandbox and saying, “play nice”, I urge the House and Senate to address the increasingly burdensome issues of state pensions and high discretionary spending at state-run universities before putting our children – who do not have a vote – into an untenable situation.

Sincerely,



Christopher Bowen

