

Bills: SB 457, SB 738, SB 874

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Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738, SB 874. As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose the afore mentioned bills and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. I strongly oppose any forced regionalization of schools for the following reasons:

- As a longtime resident of CT, I chose to stay in this state and raise my children due to the excellent schools and communities. If our education choices become degraded we may choose to reside in another location which allows its residents to maintain local control of its children's education.
- The impetus of the proposed legislation is to save money. However, a study by Orlando J. Rodriguez, K-12 Regionalization in Connecticut: Pros, Cons and Surprises disputes many of the cost savings from purported regionalization.
- Regionalization will deter new families from moving to our state and will potentially cause families to leave our state for communities which maintain local control of education.
- Regionalization will create larger class sizes and decrease administrator/community engagement with students and staff. In turn, lowering the quality of all of the states schools as a result.

I hope you will oppose SB738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

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