

Testimony of Mary E. Burnham
Education Committee Public Hearing
March 1, 2019

Regarding:

SB 454 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

SB 457 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

SB 738 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

HB 7150 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION.

Governor's Bill 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

(NOTE: OPPOSED TO ALL BILLS/LEGISLATION THAT WOULD REGIONALIZE CT SCHOOL DISTRICT)

Dear Education Committee Members,

I am a retired teacher, director, and educational consultant. I raised two children who attended CT public schools. Presently, I have two grandchildren attending CT public schools. I care deeply about CT and the education system.

I am writing in OPPOSITION to these reorganization bills for the following reasons:

The Governor's Bill 874 is a PLAN!! There will be No discussion. No investigation. No analysis. No vetting. No proof. Just do it! This alone should be reasons for voting against this bill!!!

- The bill establishes a "Commission on Shared School Services for the purpose of developing a plan for the redistricting or consolidation of school services and school districts".

Do NOT change Connecticut's locally controlled education model.

- Let local boards decide what works for them. Different communities have different populations, different needs and curriculum standards, and most important, research shows that smaller schools and classrooms provide for better outcomes, especially as our special education student population increases and classroom demands grow.
- Keeping the power of governing our schools in the hands of the people who live and work in the communities they serve should be a priority

Instructional quality should be the priority of ALL education bills - regional schools do not mention instructional quality

- Additionally, there is evidence that larger schools and/or school districts might harm quality
- Smaller schools and smaller class sizes are known to produce better outcomes for students

Regionalization will NOT save money

- Higher transportation costs
- Higher administrative costs
- Higher support staff costs

A report by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving ([K-12 Regionalization Report in Connecticut](#)) already addresses this issue (PLEASE SEE ATTACHED to this email testimony)

Sincerely,
Mary E. Burnham
Cheshire, CT