



CONNECTICUT REALTORS®

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Statement on

SB 457

AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Statement on School Regionalism Proposals

Submitted to the Education Committee

March 1, 2019

By

Connecticut REALTORS®

This testimony is submitted by CT REALTORS® (CTR). CTR represents over 17,000 members involved in all aspects of real estate in Connecticut. Our REALTOR® membership work to sell Connecticut to tens of thousands of potential buyers and businesses annually. We hear their concerns and reasons for not buying in CT.

Please consider the following in your deliberations on all school regionalism proposals:

- CT REALTORS® (CTR) believes Connecticut's excellent school systems are a major selling point for those considering a move to Connecticut. Our highly educated workforce is recognized by businesses considering expansion or relocation to Connecticut.
- CTR encourages all involved in the regionalism debate to affirmatively and emphatically confirm that the discussion is about shared services and administration where cost and academic benefits can be realized – and not about forced closures and redistricting.
- CTR supports the preparation of cost/benefit analyses that highlight successful efforts in shared administration and other services. CTR also supports sharing examples of where merged efforts resulted in no savings or higher costs.
- CTR supports changes to the statute that can open up the potential for schools to share resources more affordably.
- CTR opposes mandates in recognition they can often increase costs, not reduce costs.
- CTR supports all efforts to make Connecticut an ideal place to live and work. Schools are a cornerstone of the attraction to living and working in Connecticut.

Headlines suggesting multiple school closures are imminent have an immediate chilling effect on both real estate buyers and sellers. Lack of certainty about a family's possible school commute impacts a willingness to buy and sometimes even a willingness to rent in our communities. Buyers have a choice about whether to invest in a home or not, and whether to invest in our state or not.

CT REALTORS® urges legislators to be mindful of the impact of decisions about schools on potential real estate buyers, sellers and businesses. Thank you for your consideration.