

Testimony Over School District Consolidation; Senate bills 738 An Act Concerning The Creation of Regional School Districts and senate bill 457 An Act Concerning The Size of School Districts

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Hello

My name is Tyler DellaValle and I'm from Prospect, I'm also a graduate of Regional School District 16. I am not here to argue whether or not consolidating schools is either feasible or practical as I believe the countless districts in the state proves consolidation can work. The reason I am here is I believe this current drive for consolidation is being done for the wrong reason. My local representative Ms. Zupkus sent a mass email with the proposed bills attached. To be frank especially in regard to the legislation proposed by senator Looney, my only comment would be. It seems a bit light, a whole half page of legislations with its stated goal *To create a more efficient educational system*. The half page speaks mostly about collective bargaining. In short this seems to be a very ambitious plan to help cut the state deficit by cutting one of our most undervalued assets.. teachers in an already arcane educational system which even at it's best is still widely criticized for failing students.

Public education in this state and country has faced problems for years from the way we collect funding for it. To the way we teach, how we train teachers, how children are told to behave. Our education system has an endless myriad of issues. So the state of Connecticut once again in it's infinite wisdom has decided that the educational system just is not lean enough. We need less teachers fewer schools and bigger classes. Also the want it all done nice and neatly squared away in the space of two years.

I would also like to know what facilities will be used? How many towns would be possibly joined together? If so how will this impact bus routes? If that be the case how will increased bus ride times affect student behaviour and performance? Also given the very short time table set for achieving this goal of efficiency. How is this overhaul to be carried out? Senator Looney provides no answers to these most basic questions in his bill.

Finally I would like to make a prediction based on facts that are well known to the public and generally considered common sense. Lets start with this; girls on average have higher academic achievement than their male counterparts. Fact two students who perform poorly in school are more at risk to engage in anti-social behaviour. Fact three the larger a class the less a student learns and the less a teacher can teach and pay individual attention to a student. This will turn students colloquially termed as *at risk* for behavioural issues into *problem* students. Now consider all of those facts next to the most this statement that men are incarcerated at nearly five times the rate of women. In the end what you will have after several years is an increase of young male offenders in small rural and suburban communities. As this bill will pretty much only affect rural and suburban communities.

Also long term this consolidation will only prove to young people across this state. That you care more about money and saving useless programs than making sure children have access to a quality education and give us young residents even less reason to stay here to build a life. Thank you for your time