

Proposed Bill 457

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While Probate Districts may work well for our Judicial System, it disturbs me that this plan does not take into account that a major restructuring of the Educational System in Connecticut does not deserve the time and effort to come up with a THOUGHTFUL plan with an emphasis solely on the needs of the CHILDREN of Connecticut. The fact of the matter is that Proposed Bill No. 457 Statement of Purpose is: To require certain small school districts to create new or join existing regional school districts. Where is the word CHILDREN?

Did anyone in Hartford think that although schools have the Standards to guide instruction that the way this is done is determined by town or district educators who advocate for the children they serve to determine what ideology, program or instructional model will best meet the needs of the students they are charged to educate. Each school system has the autonomy to determine which materials, methodology and philosophy best fits the needs of its school population. Forcing systems to merge would not form a school district but a district of schools.

So what will this bill REALLY impact? Possibly a misguided attempt to save money on administration, let's be real. Look at the hierarchy in a city such as Hartford, there are 20 administrators in the Academics of Teaching and Learning in addition to the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. There are also 3 administrators in Communications and Marketing, 2 administrators in Security addressing internal and external security, 4 administrators in School Leadership NOT including principals and assistant principals. There are 21 departments! If this bill is supposed to make taxpayers believe that consolidating upper management will SAVE money, think again. Forcibly bringing towns together will be more expensive and cause undue upheaval in our already over mandated schools. This is an ill thought idea to placate the citizens of Connecticut who are overburdened by taxes.

Do not vote yes for Senate Bill 457. The citizens of Connecticut will be paying ridiculous amounts of money to fix something that is not broken and the children of Connecticut who do not have a voice will be added to the carnage.

My question to you is WHY do you think people are MOVING out of Connecticut? You have just added another reason to persuade the 25 – 55 year-old worker in Connecticut to run.