

State of Connecticut Education Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, CT 06106

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 and SB 874,

The legislation addressing bills **SB 457** (*An Act Concerning the Size of School Districts*), **SB 738** (*An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts*), and **SB 874** (*An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut*) are of concern to me because I am a parent of two young children.

When we purchased our home over a decade ago (several years before even having children), the most important factor when choosing a town was the school system. We chose to live in Guilford and I have been very happy with our choice. Although the taxes may be a little higher than some other towns in the state, I am alright with that knowing that we are in a school district which we chose and which we have worked hard to be a part of. I have great confidence in our Superintendent of Schools, our Board of Education, the Educators and Administrators in our district, and the Programs in our district and the community in Guilford.

The possibility of forced regionalization upsets me very much. Like I have already said, we chose Guilford because we wanted our children to attend the Guilford Public Schools. I do not want my children to attend schools farther away and have them spend much more time riding transportation to get to and from school. If my children were to attend a school farther away or out of our district, I would like it to be my choice as a parent and not something we were forced to do. I have many other concerns with forced regionalization, but I know that other parents throughout the state have voiced their concerns regarding this proposal of regionalization as well and I imagine they have already touched on a lot of the other reasons regionalization should not be forced on districts. I hope the state legislators and governor will hear our voice and do the right thing by not forcing smaller towns and districts in the state to regionalize.

Thank you for hearing concern regarding forced regionalization in the state of Connecticut. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



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