

[SB 457](#), [SB 738](#), and [SB 874](#)

Dear 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.

My name is Inessa Getman and I am a resident of Wolcott CT. My testimony below asks the Education Committee to vote "No" on **SB-457, SB-738** and **SB-874**. I strongly urge you to reject all three bills and ask the committee to refuse the move forward any new and/or revised bills that propose formation of commission to study possible regionalization or consolidation of public school district.

The school system was one of the main reasons why our family chose to move to the town of Wolcott, CT. Wolcott is a small town where everyone is like a family and education is a top priority, the school system is critical to identity of our small community. Wolcott residents make decisions on local school budget and changes based on what is best for the residents in the town of Wolcott. With regionalization, local education control is lost and we will have to consider other larger neighboring towns. For example, the educational priorities for Waterbury or Bristol school education system are not the same as for small town like Wolcott CT. If any education decisions are up for a vote, there is no possible way Wolcott residents can outnumber the votes of Waterbury parents just due to the sheer population difference. Regionalizing school districts will NOT create a more efficient school system for Wolcott CT and will jeopardize locally controlled education.

Forced regionalization penalizes smaller towns simply because of their size, not taking into consideration people's freedom to choose where they live and schools kids attend. Please do not force a fix to something that is already working in Wolcott CT. If neighboring towns decide to regionalize, it should be up to communities to decide to do so and not be forced into it.

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Kind Regards

Inessa Getman