

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

For years, my husband and I researched and reviewed local towns and school districts prior to purchasing our first home. We recognized the importance of the education system for our two small children one in first grade and the other entering soon. Countless hours went into interviewing current district parents, visiting the local school districts, looking up statistics, grades and reviews of each surrounding town from where we used to live (Suffield). We finally came to the conclusion that Granby is where we wanted to live, primarily because we wanted both of our daughter's to attend their thriving school district.

Forced regionalization would decrease the quality of education my children would receive, which is not even a consideration in these bills. It will place my children on longer bus rides, perhaps even out of their home town which should NOT occur and cost MORE money. This would in turn force me to take time off of work in order to transport them so they don't have to incur an extended bus ride. We also have great concerns that regionalization would mean larger class sizes for our children leaving less individual one-on-one time with the students. Regionalization will also remove the sense of home town community we are accustomed to and enjoy.

While some are quick to complain about high taxes, we are ok with the amount we pay and even understand them going up because of the value and quality of education Granby delivers. The Granby school district and our town's sense of community are the ONLY things keeping us in Connecticut. Without them, we would have ultimately chosen to move to a different state. If forced regionalization occurs we have already decided we WILL sell our house and move to a state that allows parents the right to decide where their children will attend school through local town districts. Students and communities would lose their voices and power through forced regionalization, a choice parents should have the right to make.

In conclusion, I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Margaret Goodman
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