

February 27, 2019

Re: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 (collectively, the “Regionalization Bill”)

To Whom this May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Regionalization Bill. As a mother of two and a former school teacher, this bill frightens me. It seems that the main purpose is to lower costs rather than focusing on what is best for our children. I worry that this Regionalization will come at the cost of the quality of our children’s education – that suggested efficiency gains will not translate to better schools. Just lower cost.

I cannot support a bill that takes away from the administrative support schools have to provide education to my children. As a mother, education is my number one concern. I believe that CT needs to show firm support to the educators and the administrative backing in order to obtain the best education for our children.

I believe that education is a localized process. A function that is best effectuated at the local level – close to home. Administrators need to make community level decisions, interact closely with families and neighbors. It requires a personal touch that may be lost by the tenets of the Regionalization Bill.

I fear that this regionalization concept also opens the door to other broader changes to our school systems. It merely an initial step to marginalizing our children’s educations. It may open these broader regions to greater regional distresses including re-allocation of regional budgets between current districts, regional bussing, and other decisions that would be made at the broader regional level. This is unacceptable.

Connecticut boasts many of the best school districts in the nation. It is why my husband and I moved here. Honestly, it is the only reason. I kindly ask you to support our decision by voting against the Regionalization Bill.

Sincerely,

Lauren Hansen
New Canaan, CT