

Governor Lamont, Senator Duff and Senator Looney,

I am writing today because I absolutely and strongly oppose:

- SB 738 - Senator Martin Looney's bill
- SB 457 - Senator Bob Duff's bill
- SB 874 - Governor Ned Lamont's bill

The State wants to regionalize schools to save money yet there is no study suggesting this will occur. The State should not try to interfere with the local school districts of the CT towns, especially in the school districts that have been successful, like the Town of Darien. The Darien Board of Education has been committed to providing a quality public education to students. There is no need for the State to step in and take control of our local district, it isn't broken.

People move to our town because of the high quality of education our Public School provides. Dismantling our school system in an effort to fix Connecticut's fiscal issue is irresponsible and unfair. Not to mention what it will do to the home values of residents.

A study done by Syracuse University determined that consolidation is most effective at cutting costs when the districts involved are small (300 pupils). As larger districts consolidate, the study found that the cost savings are reduced. **And when districts reach 1,500 pupils or more, the study found that consolidating such districts has little impact on cost effectiveness (Duncombe & Yinger, 2001).**

https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/uploadedFiles/cpr/publications/working_papers/wp33.pdf

The State has no right to force this regionalization onto the local school districts. Perhaps give school districts the option to "opt out". I came to Darien Connecticut because of the school system, the State needs to keep their hands off our schools.

Annemarie Heny

Darien, CT