

Regarding: Senate Bill 738 An Act Concerning The Creation of Regional School Districts;
Senate Bill 457 An Act Concerning The Size of School Districts; and Senate Bill 874 An Act
Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut

My name is Kelly Howard, I am the mother of 11 year old twin girls in 6th grade attending Ann Antolini School in New Hartford. I am strongly opposed to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874. As it is the time spent on the bus is at least 45 minutes each way to and from school. There has been no mention of the amount of time a child will spend each day traveling to a regionalized school. New Hartford already has a regionalized Middle School and High School. Our neighbors daughter (12 and in 7th grade) gets on the bus at 6:15 am to travel to Region 7 School. Is this what we want for elementary age school children? We never anticipated our children would be subjected to one hour bus rides to and from school. Not only does this impact children, but it impacts the entire family. Schedules have to be changed to ensure school age children get to bed early enough, to be fully rested to be able to get up that early in the morning. My husband and I both work full time. How many hours a night do we have to spend with our children before bedtime, after you take into consideration homework and dinner?

These bills will erode the quality and character of our local schools, which in turn will impact the quality of our town. We moved to New Hartford because it is a small close-knit agricultural community. If we wanted our children to go to larger school systems, we would have moved to the city.

Larger classroom sizes directly impacts the amount of time and attention a teacher can pay on individual students. A classroom of 30 to 40 students of varying academic levels will impact the quality of education. New Hartford has a smaller student to teacher ratio, which allows for more individualized instruction. People move to these small towns because of these qualities. This will potentially drive people out of the state, and could impact the resale value of our homes. People are attracted to Connecticut because of the quality of our Education System, this will dissuade people with school age children from moving to CT.

As a resident in the State of Connecticut, I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 which will negatively impact the education system in Connecticut.

Respectfully,

Kelly Howard

New Hartford, CT 06057