

## **Bill 457 and Bill 738**

I would like to voice my very strong opposition to forced regionalization of school districts. Why some may believe regionalization is a good idea, and it may well be, it should be at the discretion of each and every school district. Forcing a "one size fits all" solution on the various districts is plain out silly. It doesn't work in real life and it certainly doesn't work in politics and schools. And may I add that there are many problems with regionalization, even when it is voluntary. Take Region 15 as example. The two towns are always fighting about school budgets, allocations, spending, etc. And as I said, it is a voluntary region. Imagine the issues and problems which will surface if regions are forced upon partners. At least in the Region 15 example, if they could never work out their differences, they could dissolve the region, painful as it may be to do so. If forced, what are the options if towns are always at each others' throats? Additionally, how would you deal with different pay scales, steps raises, etc. between/among the towns? What about benefits? School calendars? And a thousand other things. My guess...the most expensive common denominator will need to be adopted by all! How does that help the towns forced to increase their costs to support this new, most expensive common denominator!? What if the towns operate under different teacher unions? So this needs to be deeply vetted...and then abandoned as a simplistic (not simple, there's a difference!) idea.

Besides, there are far too many "forced" impositions of the CT government on local towns, mostly in the form of unfunded mandates, and this is one more.

And with all due respect, coming from a group of people, CT democrats, who have run the state into the ground, it is hard to find credible ANY fiscal idea they present. Once they can prove they can run the state without a deficit, then they can begin to tell others how to run their affairs.

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