

Noelle Kenny
61 Topstone Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877

CT Education Committee
Hartford, CT

Dear Education Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to proposed bills: SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools. All three proposals are detrimental to the health of our most precious asset as a state, our schools.

Having attended middle school in a district with large-scale systemic consolidation in South Florida, I experienced first hand the negative effects of county wide run school systems: most salient being lower student achievement, disengaged teachers, higher teacher turnover and a one size fits all method of education that ignores significant variation. I was a mere number among tens of thousands in a failing district.

As a parent of public school students in Ridgefield Connecticut, I have witnessed first hand the benefits of locally run public schools. My children are educated in a nurturing environment where teacher engagement is high, individualized student learning is understood and acknowledged and high achievement is praised - a stark contrast to my Florida county wide run education.

Though I understand how economies of scale appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint, these bills attack our most precious asset as a community and as a state - the quality of our schools. If approved, these bills would only further an additional outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for the schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis. Further, regionalization has been demonstrated to NOT help education equity between small towns and citizens, so if that is the rationale behind this, it is misguided.

For these reasons, I implore you for your support in **opposing** SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 and or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Noelle Kenny