

To Whom it may concern,

As a parent of public school students Ridgefield CT, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senator Looney & Senator Duffs proposed bills PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools. As a parent of 3 public school students in Ridgefield Connecticut, I understand the importance 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. We moved here from NYC where many classrooms are overcrowded and students do not get the attention they need to be successful. We moved to Ridgefield because of the town's amazing schools and the attention and focus they provide our children. Regionalization will destroy the educational benefits our children currently receive. Though I understand how economies of scale appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint, this bill attacks our most precious asset as a community and as a state - the quality of our schools. If approved, this bill 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, I am certain that the geographical incompatibility of the surrounding towns in Fairfield County alone would increase transportation costs, thereby negating any savings offered via economies of scale and would only succeed in eliminating local control and harming school quality.

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

Can I count on you to oppose SB738?

Thank you,

Calvin Lem  
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