

February 28, 2019

Education Committee  
Connecticut State Legislature  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Education Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to your proposed bills SB 738 and SB 457, for the forced regionalization of school districts amongst many communities here in Connecticut.

When I moved here back in 2005, it was to settle down in the same community my husband grew up in and to raise our children in the same setting. Looking at the school districts prior to that move, it was noted that the Bethany/Amity school district was in the top 10 of the state, which was appealing and was one of the reasons I agreed to the move. I wanted my children to have that.

While Bethany/Amity may be small and insignificant to you, we the people of Bethany love what we have. A small community, a small school district and a closeness amongst families and friends that most cannot even begin to boast that they have. Everyone knows everyone, and we take care of each other. This is the background that I want my son to have, this is why I moved here, this is why I choose CT over several other states that we were looking at. If you move our children into regionalization, they will lose that connection.

As well, class sizes are large enough all around. By regionalizing, you are making the classes larger, and this could be detrimental to the education of all children. The children that need more help and assistance will get lost in the sea of larger classrooms. We want our children to succeed, but larger classes are not going to be able to provide the care and attention that each child needs to aid them in that success.

One other thing that needs to be taken into consideration, is the time and money it will take to get these children to and from the new districts. For instance, you wish to move Bethany Community School to the Hamden district. For a small child, this could be a 30 to 40 minute, if not longer, ride on the bus one way, and with the weather we have been having, is this really sensible? NO!!

I completely understand that the state needs to make some budget adjustments, but this should not happen at the expense of our children, their education and their futures. By doing so, you are hurting the next generation of residents here in CT., as they will be inclined to move to other states that don't have such large school districts.

I again, strongly oppose the Senate bills mentioned above and hope that you all come to your senses and see that this will be one of the worst things that the State of Connecticut can do to its young minds. The cuts and regionalization will deeply impact all children, this shouldn't be all about money, but what is in the best interest of our children and their futures.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and hear a voice of a parent that's child will be deeply impacted by this radical plan. All children deserve the right to a better education and a chance to grow and develop and become doctors, lawyers, mechanics or teachers. Keep squashing the systems that are already in place and keep taking money from their education and you are dooming them to not succeed. I am sure if further research was done into the budget, you would find an alternative that wouldn't affect our children as these two bills are right now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Miller', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Laura Miller  
Concerned Parent  
Bethany, CT 06524