

February 27, 2019

SUBJECT: SB 457, SB 738, SB 874

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874. The matter of forcing regionalization of school districts with fewer than 2000 students is one of great concern to me and my family. In my view, doing so would undermine our community's ability to determine what is best for the education of the students in our community. It would take control away from those of us who are taxpayers in smaller communities, as those voted into positions on the Board of Education for the larger district would more than likely be those who live in the larger towns or cities.

For many years, our communities of Beacon Falls and Prospect which comprise Region 16 were in a stalemate regarding the building of our high school. This was in part due to the larger voting population of Prospect, which objected to the building of our school in the town of Beacon Falls. We finally were able to get the initiative to build our school, but it took literally decades. If we were to regionalize with other, larger school systems our students would surely not be fairly represented.

As taxpayers, we deserve the right to determine the path our school system takes. These bills would take that away. I strongly oppose any forced regionalization of our school systems and I urge you not to consider passage of any legislation that would do so.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Tina Mulinski, Beacon Falls, CT