

Dear Senators Hwang and Fasano;

I am writing you today, not as the board of education chairman in Easton but as a 25 year resident of this outstanding town. My two daughters went through the elementary and middle schools in Easton and the ER9 high school, Joel Barlow. They received an excellent education that prepared them for both college and their professional careers. In fact, one of my daughter is now an elementary school principal in Ct and my wife was a long time teacher and administrator in both Easton and Redding.

I share this information for one reason; my life experience as the spouse and now a father of life long educators along with my role as board chair for Easton Public Schools for the past 6 years, has provide me a depth of knowledge, experience and understanding on how education works from multiple perspectives.

That is why I am firmly against Bill 457 and 738

In Easton, we already share many aspects of the cost of education with our sister town, Redding and Regional School District 9. That includes but not limited to our Superintendent, Asst. Superintendent, Business Manager and Human Resource Director. Additionally, we work together on food service, medical coverage and expense for our employees as well as student transportation.

Aside from all we do with Redding and ER 9, we have reached out to several other districts that border ours to find where other expenses can be shared, such as transportation of out of district students with significant special needs.

As Easton receives very little tax revenue from local businesses, our schools are paid with the property taxes of our town residents. Connecticut government has already reduced our ECS funding from over \$600K a few years ago to nearly nothing today. Please do not further burden our district by forcing us into this ill fated regionalization plan.

Jeff Parker
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