

The intent of this letter is to voice my strong opposition to the forced regionalization off CT public schools. While it is tempting to imagine that consolidation of schools and administrator positions will provide an overall cost savings, there is much evidence to suggest that this is not the case, especially when taking into consideration the facts that reducing top level administration will require more middle administrative positions, that the vacant, abandoned schools will still have to be managed by the state board of education, that increased travel time for students to reach schools will involve more costs, that parental private contributions to schools that do not represent the towns in which they live will receive less private donations, that district funding for non essential services will dry up, etc. etc.

With the typical wisdom used to create the current high tax, business-unfriendly environment that has existed in CT for many years under Democrat rule, we now find the state's population decreasing, and along with it, the number of students attending K-12 school. Proposing the consolidation of schools could not be a worse idea at a worse time, as what attracts families to this state is, as it was for me, the quality of the schools. In fact, the terrible real estate market in lower Fairfield County towns right now strongly suggests that potential buyers from neighboring states are choosing not to move to CT because of this very proposal.

These authors of these bills do nothing to address any affects on the quality of education, either naively assuming that nothing will change, or realizing that it will, but preferring instead the apparently irresistible chance to steal money from smaller municipalities and give it to those which "need it" according the welfare state. Unless I am mistaken, taxes will not go down in the municipalities where the quality of education will suffer.

I find it an affront to the people of Ct who work hard to support the rest of the welfare state, and who have traditionally preferred to have school control relegated to each municipality, as evidenced by the fact that CT is 4th in the US in states that provide more than half of the cost of k-12 education from local taxpayers. The current party in power in Hartford, once again, is ignoring the desires of its constituents, and flying in the face of what the people in Ct have traditionally want. **KEEP YOU HANDS OFF OUR SCHOOLS!!!**

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