

Testimony re: Proposed Bills 457 and 738

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are opposed in principle to regionalization of schools as it takes away from the character, independence, and uniqueness of towns and, further, we oppose the imposition of any bureaucracy upon towns. We do favor economies of scale to reduce taxpayers' burdens but doubt the effectiveness and efficiencies which would ultimately result from wide-scale regionalization. There is existing regionalization where warranted in towns of small population which is sufficient. Absent that we do not favor expanding regionalization.

We do not favor any bills which would increase taxpayer burdens in any way whatsoever; most especially burdens upon retired seniors and seniors without children in school who have lived in towns 40 years or longer while bearing the full brunt of school taxes all that time.

In any event, we, furthermore, oppose the governor's plan to require towns to pay an additional 25% or any additional amount toward costs of teachers' pensions. It is his responsibility to reduce and balance the costs of state pensions, which are the result of ineffective, inefficient, and irresponsible past administrations and the legislature.

It bears repeating that we oppose increasing taxpayer burdens in any way whatsoever upon retired seniors and seniors without children in schools who have lived in towns 40 years or longer without children in schools while bearing the full brunt of school taxes all that time.

The governor should and must instead focus first on reducing the size, costs, and inefficiencies of and in state government, and the costs of obligations past administrations have made to the detriment and burden of the state's taxpayers, without exacerbating the impact, imposition, and inequities of proposing that taxpayers shoulder the out of control and/or unfunded costs those past administrations have created.

Charles A. Regulbuto
Edith V. Regulbuto
59 Riverview Drive
South Windsor, CT 06074