

Ben Rodriguez  
560 Thrall Ave.  
Suffield, CT 06078

February 28, 2019

Education Committee

Re: Senate Bill 457 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Greetings,

My name is Ben Rodriguez, resident of Suffield and I have four children in the Suffield public schools (a school district with just over 2,000 students). I write to indicate my disapproval of regionalization efforts for the following reasons:

- I pay significantly for the education of my children and the community my wife and I chose to live in. We chose to live in this community and chose to pay its taxes mostly for the return on investment we and our children will receive.
- No government body should try to remove my choice of education for my children by way of redistricting. It's wrong to tell parents that their children may need to get up earlier, take longer bus rides and go to a different school than what they chose and feel comfortable in is wrong on many levels and should not be considered.
- Towns have spent considerable dollars building their schools and infrastructure, Suffield in particular. We chose Suffield for my children, we voted for the Suffield Board of Education to govern our local education issues. It's wrong to take that local decision-making power away, to make the best decision for our families.

For the reasons stated above, I request the Committee reject this bill and other legislation that strips families of their right to make decisions regarding their children's education. It's simply wrong. The only reason this is even entertained is because of dollars. It's my opinion that no amount of dollars should justify removing a parent's decision on where their child goes to school. My wife and I chose Suffield schools and pay for Suffield schools. Our children have been educated at Suffield schools and are growing in Suffield schools. To entertain this and similar legislation is to focus on money and push aside the focus of what's best for children.

Thank you,

Ben Rodriguez

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