

E. Thomas Santacroce
16 Turner Ridge Court
Wilton, CT 06897

Subject: Calling in Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

To Whom it may concern,

As parents of public school students, I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senator Looney & Senator Duffs proposed bills PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

My wife and I specifically moved back to CT (where we both grew up) from Colorado to raise and family because of the sense of community and quality of schools. No where in any of these bills is there any mention of the quality of the schools which I believe is a main selling point to get more people to move to CT. I'm worried if regionalization happens, it will discourage people who are considering moving to CT.

Though I understand how economies of scale appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint, this bill attacks our most precious asset as a community and as a state - the quality of our schools. If approved, this bill would only further an additional outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for the schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis.

Further, I am certain that the geographical incompatibility of the surrounding towns in Fairfield County alone would increase transportation costs, thereby negating any savings offered via economies of scale and would only succeed in eliminating local control and harming school quality.

For these reasons, I implore you for your support in opposing PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Thomas Santacroce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "E" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

E. Thomas Santacroce