

February 28, 2019

**To:** edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

**Subject:** Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Bigger schools are rarely better. They remove local solutions to local problems and add more administrators and bureaucracy. We moved here for the quality of our schools. Larger, regionalized school districts will decrease quality. None of the bills mention school quality. School quality is not a priority. Why is that? What metrics are being used to assess school quality in these proposed regionalization efforts? If you are considering school quality you should be able to answer that question.

Second, this effort will have no impact on cost. There are no accepted studies that support substantial or even moderate savings in costs related to regionalization. There are no studies that support the proposition that schools representing a larger student population will result in lower per pupil spending. If you are supposing that regionalization will decrease costs, what studies are you pointing to that support this viewpoint?

Third, there is evidence that this proposal is already preventing people from moving to CT and driving decisions of people to leave CT. Our economy is already faltering. Why are you considering steps which will only lead to a weaker economic outlook for the state? Connecticut is already one of the eight states in this country in which its population is declining and continuing to decline. Without people – consumers moving into this state, our economy – and tax base – will continue to shrink. Why would a young family purchase a home here? With this regionalization prospect and the existing failed state of our economy, what young family would willingly move here?

You have a chance as a legislator to make this state into the vibrant place that it was over twenty years ago. Or at the very least, a viable state. We live in a failed state today. Regionalization will only accelerate our decline by reducing the quality of our education for all of our children.

I ask that you oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools and puts bureaucracy and administrators ahead of our students.

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