

02/28/19

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I would ask the Connecticut legislature to step back and consider a comprehensive commission to study regionalization and consolidation before running full-steam into a one size fits all plan.

The commission should be represented by educators, (with first-hand knowledge of the advantages and pitfalls of regionalization/consolidation), elected officials, parents, students, and community members.

My greatest concerns initially focuses on:

- One size never fits all
- The time students will spend on buses and the real related costs of transportation when the geography of school districts increase as an off-set to any savings
- Warehousing of empty school buildings and burden this will placed on taxpayers to maintain those empty buildings as an off-set to any savings
- The disparity between and among districts who maintain their building and facilities and those who have not and then expecting the merged communities to pay the obligations of other communities, again as an off-set to any savings

Governor Lamont has stated he supports using a carrot and not the stick approach and I see real value moving forward.

Thank you again for reading my written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

Annmarie Sirotnak  
East Granby, CT  
(Concerned Parent)