

Dear Esteemed members of the Education Committee:

First and foremost, thank you for representing and listening to the citizens of Connecticut. This letter is in strong opposition to the following proposed bills: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

What happened to smaller communities, smaller towns, and an individualized educational experience? We moved to Westport for the level of education that the town purports.

I do realize, not all town have the same resources, monies allotted, etc. that our fine community does, but why does it have to be a massive reorganization to benefit those less fortunate? How does that benefit anyone? How? So the folks that pay more taxes subsidize the other towns that aren't necessarily on the same playing field? Again, is this fair? No. But the last I checked this is NOT a socialist country and we can have these lines of delineation. I am so sick of everyone saying you have to give all you make, all, you do, give it all up for everyone else. This is America, this is the United States. You can have an advantage, you can get ahead, that's why this nation is so fabulous and so many folks are clamoring to become a part of the dream. This is not a solution. Please just don't even go there with these "options". There are bigger, larger financial issues looming for our great state/nation that need to be addressed. The state of education is already lacking compared to other nations, this will make us even less apt to be competitive and thrive.

Can I ask, besides a cost saving measure, how this will benefits other towns? How will Westport residents benefit from this? Did you speak with parents who were on board with this? How do the children feel about this? The teachers, the bus drivers, etc.? Were they, our fearless leaders that we see every day and those behind closed doors asked their thoughts? Do they not count? Does our voice not count?

None of these bills include even one mention of school quality. How will that be addressed? You cannot say we will see, you just cannot. These are children. These bills will erode the quality and the character of our local schools, which erodes the quality of our town. These bills also concern me regarding the potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrators and community engagement.

These bills would also have a deleterious effect on declining property values as a whole and our economy. The state is already struggling. Do you really think this would incentive people to move here?

I do hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Many thanks-

Amie Tesler

Westport, CT