

Written testimony to Education Committee, Public Hearing March 1, 2019  
SB 457, SB 738, SB 874

I do not support SB 457 and SB 738 to consolidate Connecticut school districts based on 2,000 student threshold point or aligning regional districts based on state probate districts.

While it is appropriate to study redistricting and consolidation of school services and districts in order to improve quality of education while reducing costs, multiple options need to be considered with full transparency of information and underlying assumptions.

Forced regionalization to larger school districts will not necessarily mean reduced costs to taxpayers. I do not support lengthier bus rides, larger classroom sizes/higher student-to-teacher ratios, or reduction of quality of services or access to curriculum that are provided in our current regional school district.

The state and our towns face daunting challenges to reduce costs, while at the same time maintaining and improving educational standards. But SB 457 and SB 738 are not the right approach.

Respectfully,  
Suzanne Thompson  
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