

As a parent of soon to be CT 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. I find these bills concerning on many fronts.

First, there is a strong correlation between home values and school quality. I'm currently a Norwalk, CT resident, that is looking to move into a more expensive neighboring town in order to put my kids into a better school district. To that point, just the threat of these bills will scare off prospective buyers, and could pressure homes sales. I'm the perfect example as I'm reconsidering what my family's next move will be. The potential for leaving CT is now on the table, which means loss of tax revenue to the state.

Second, I do not want my kids education being decided from a group that does not answer directly to me and the people of my town. Specifically, the increased regionalization will water down my vote or ability to influence.

Lastly, from what I've read of the bills, I see no concern as it relates to the outcome of the quality of the education. I see mentions of potential savings, nothing about outcomes. As someone who graduated from a large public high school (Danbury) in CT, my personal experience suggest there are no benefits to larger class sizes, and/or larger schools as a whole.

In conclusion, I want my school districts kept local where the parents who care have a say, where our tax dollars can be seen being put to work where we want, and I want my home value protected.

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