

I am writing today in opposition to bills SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874. This is probably the worst idea the legislature has ever proposed. It's proven that forced regionalization doesn't work and has very limited overall impact on budget. The implementation and transportation costs far offset the limited cost savings from a shared administrative services approach.

These proposals ask our kids to carry the weight of the budget deficit. Our kids had nothing to do with creating the budget issues that face our state, but you are now asking them to help solve it by forcing an overhaul of their education system. You want our children to commute for multiple hours a day to regionalized schools because the legislature can't agree on other ways to save money. How is this responsible, how can anyone think this is a good idea to put additional burden on our students?

All the studies I have read say there is a "chance" that this may save a small amount of money but it could also cost more based on how it's implemented. The same studies also show that there is a good chance this disruption negatively impacts the quality of education. There are many common-sense solutions that have been proposed to reduce our deficit, these bills won't even make a dent in the problem and will cause enormous harm to our state. The disruption to our school system and impact on our children is not worth the potential small savings that could result. Find the money somewhere else and stop asking our students to pay for the mistakes of the last ten years.

When we moved back to CT after we left the Armed Services we carefully considered what town we wanted to move to. Above all else we looked at the school system, we chose to move to Canton because of the excellent reputation and the smaller size. We chose a smaller system because we knew that was what our children needed.

These bills are designed to remove choice from CT residents. The legislature wants to make all of the decisions for us, it's a gross over reach and consolidation of power. Local communities know best and should be in charge of how they invest. Our local school board listens to its constituents and makes decisions based on what the town wants and what's best for its students. Regionalization will minimize our voice in our children's education system.

Since moving to CT I have been offered jobs outside the state which I have turned down because we love it here, but if the state forces regionalization we will actively pursue leaving, local education is fundamental to what makes CT a great place to raise a family, do not change that and ruin our system.

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