

Opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 – School Regionalization I am writing to express my concerns and strong opposition to SB 738, 457, 874, all of which pertain to regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

I am opposed to this plan. As a tax payer, educator, and mother, I feel this is not the best plan for educating our students. People choose to move to small towns for the small town and small class sizes. By forcing regionalization, class sizes will increase. If a town has a class size cap as mandated by a contract, additional teachers may need to be added which will add cost, not save. If there is no class size cap, the unions could go into contract negotiations and set a cap.

Growing up in Durham/ Middlefield (Region 13), I lived in Durham and went to school in Middlefield. I rode the bus for over an hour in the morning and in the evening. In today's busy world, students have many after school activities that are not school based. By increasing the length of bus rides, they may not be able to participate because they can not get there in time. I'm not sure how increased bus time and transportation would save towns money?

As a mother, I chose to move to Cheshire when my children became school age. We previously lived in Meriden. I did not want my children to attend an inner city school. I certainly don't want that forced upon me or my children. I pay my taxes to live in Cheshire and expect to have my children attend public school here, not get bused to a different town.

I feel there are so many reasons to not force this regionalization. Many towns have decided to regionalize of their own accord. Additionally, many smaller towns utilize the resources from LEARN, CREC, ACES.

If you want towns to pool their resources- have the conversation with the smaller towns. Bring the towns to the table to begin the conversation, let them be in charge of their own destiny and the job of educating the children in the system. You would be surprised at how inventive and resourceful educators can be when they see the value in what they are doing.

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