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Regarding: Testimony opposing the CT bill No. SB457, SB738 and SB874

Honorable Members of Education Committee:

This is Wenliang Zhou, a resident of Farmington CT, and an Associate Research Scientist at Yale University. I am writing to oppose the raised bills No. SB457, SB738 and SB874, which force to regionalize school districts in Connecticut.

I have viewed testimonies and ALL people oppose the three bills, with good reasons. Here I just want to add one more point: *increasing the school size will inevitably increase the risk of communicable diseases in school.*

Epidemiology has firmly established the causal relationship between size of population and risk of communicable diseases including devastating plagues. Double the population size will increase 4 times of the risk. Particularly, school kids are still young and much more fragile to infections, which add additional risk.

Regionalize school district meaning that most towns in CT need to double or even triple their student populations. Considering the epidemics situation in Connecticut has been quite serious in recent years, the regionalization of school districts will make more threat to students' health and add extra burden on our already vulnerable healthcare system.

Please vote **NO** to bills SB457, SB738 and SB874!

Thanks!

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