

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the following as my written testimony for Public Hearing on March 1, 2019 regarding: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

As a certified CT educator and the parent of two school-aged children, I am strongly opposed to forced school regionalization in any form. While I don't believe that any town should be forced to compromise its identity or instructional integrity, I can only speak specifically about Trumbull. I moved to Trumbull 5 1/2 years ago because of the quality of community life and the high quality of the public school system. The Trumbull Public School system has the distinction of being recognized as a high-performing district on many state and national lists and rankings. This is achieved by hiring and maintaining the most qualified administrators, curriculum leaders, teachers, and related service professionals; maintaining appropriate staff to student ratios in classrooms; and offering instruction to challenge learners at every level. My children have greatly benefitted from their participation in STEM and Talented and Gifted programs. Trumbull residents are extremely proud of their schools and this is evidenced by the high level of parent involvement across grade levels. This sense of pride drives our strong sense of community and the Trumbull Black and Gold can be found at every park, community event, sporting event, and town-wide celebration. Our community identity and school system continue to attract young families to our town, ensuring the security of personal property values and success of small businesses.

Incentives for **voluntary** regionalization for towns who are struggling financially or with meeting state goals for student success should be considered. There are no instructional benefits for towns of any size to regionalize if they are already demonstrating educational success with their students.

Your state budget may be broken, but our school system is NOT. Trumbull Public Schools do not need fixing and I will not support any proposal that compromises the quality of education or quality of community life for my children.

Respectfully Submitted,

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