

**To:** [edtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:edtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

**From:** Elizabeth W. Castagna  
Redding, CT 06896

**Date:** February 28, 2019

**Subject:** Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

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.

- We moved to Redding, CT in large part for the public schools, and the existing school quality is what keeps us, and many of our friends and neighbors here.
- I believe that these proposals will not ultimately save money, given the costs of combining resources, based on the research I have done.
- None of these bills include even one mention of school quality, which should always be considered a priority.
- These proposals erode the quality and the character of our local schools, which erodes the quality of our town, county and state.
- I am very concerned about the potential negative impact of larger school sizes, which has never been tied to broad increases in quality of education, and likely decreasing administrator and community engagement.
- Even at this early date, there is evidence that this is already preventing people from coming to CT, or is driving decisions of people to consider leaving CT, which could result in a very widespread negative impact on the CT economy.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,  
*Elizabeth W. Castagna*