

Dear, Education Committee Member

I am writing with respect, expressing a strong opposition to **SP 874 PSB457 and PSP 738**.

I am discouraged and annoyed that our basic premise of United States culture to inspire individuals to aspire to greatness and learn from others who have, will be destroyed by these bills and the mindset to force regionalization

Forcing successful schools system to align with larger or smaller systems to lose their autonomy and decision making clout is only perpetuating the new mantra that if you fail (and don't do your work to succeed as the Town of Monroe and its school system has) you will be rewarded by others stealing your money and de valuing if your house.

Forcing schools to bus people elsewhere and lose voting and decision making clout is not the answer. I propose it's the exact opposite of what we want to teach our youth and will lead to major blowback to those legislating such foolishness.

You have been pouring funding into failing city schools and it hasn't improved - maybe it's time to stop redirecting funds and deal with the learning issues- a kid can't learn if they don't have food or are undernourished, or un disciplined. School time is a short part of the day that must be supported by parents and a stable home that encourages education.

MONROE is a great town and I moved here 25 years ago from Washington DC area because of the culture and specifically for the school system.

The town and schools have been great for my 3 kids and have added tremendously to their individual value to CT. I'm sure there is a lesson that other towns could learn from our system and a better means than forcing redistricting. Which will reduce our staffs ability to meet our towns needs and drive cost sharing to larger groups that will dictate to our town what they want, which hasn't necessarily worked.

Driving change should be driven by providing increased access to successful practices not a plan to destroy them by merging poor systems

If you could show me and others the facts on how and where this has worked through a thorough analysis, maybe we would reconsider. But for now, it just looks like and feels like another knee jerk reaction to redistribute wealth and drive poorer student scores -reduced influx of families and businesses and an approach that reads like thriving for mediocrity.

- it will devastate small towns like Monroe (town and schools)
- it will eliminate local control and force negative change to pupil teacher dynamics and time availability
- it will harm the economy reducing firms ability to recruit workers and destroy the real estate market

My wife teaches in the Monroe school district having worked in almost all of the schools , transitioning from working for the US Justice Department in Washington DC, and having been a hospital Social worker and as a writer/ reporter. She truly loves the children in Monroe and the quality time she can spend with them.

These bills destroy the relationship and student growth by perpetuating the notion that if you don't work hard to fix your problems someone (the government in this case) will come and steal ones efforts and success. This is a dangerous lesson to students and towns and will lead to the further erosion of the

State of Connecticut

For the sake of our kids and economy please vote these down.
Come up with something that will emphasize improvement and growth and not share the demise of the educational system.

Sincerely,
Dennis Condon
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