

## **School Regionalization Bills Testimony**

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I am writing to you to voice my strong opposition to school regionalization. Three years ago my wife and I made a large life decision to move to Wolcott CT. We chose this town because it was a central location to our places of employment and equally important, we liked the school system our kids would be attending. We put everything we had to get our home, our "Forever Home" as they say and now my daughter is in kindergarten and loves her school and friends. Soon my son will also be in the school system. We are adding a pool and deck to our house this year. We are "rooted" and invested as they say. We plan on staying in CT and raising our family.

This will all change if school regionalization ever comes to fruition. The small town and school I purposely moved my family to would all be forcibly taken away from us. My property value would drop as the town and school system no longer has the small-town value I bought into. I would sell my house (likely at huge loss now) and my family would move from CT. CT would lose an Engineer, Social Worker and hardworking middle-class family.

I know I am not alone in my opinion on this matter. I have had many families express the same outrage and disappointment in our government for trying to rip away what makes so many of our towns in the state of CT special, for what so many hard-working people have paid taxes and built a life around. The state of CT is overstepping its boundaries with these bills and it is not what the residents of CT want. I ask that you represent the people's voices as you were elected to do and let it be known that the people do not want this and stop these bills from moving forward anymore.

If not, I fear I would not be the only family moving away from CT.

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

*Dan*

*Wolcott, CT*