

Dear Education Committee members,

Please accept this letter in opposition to **Senate Bill 738** concerning the creation of regional school districts.

I live in Bethany and have two children in the Amity school district. As a member of an existing regional school (region #5), I am perplexed by the introduction of this bill and cannot imagine supporting it in any way.

Our schools work currently and work exceptionally well as evidenced by multiple national recognitions of Amity's excellence.

As a resident of Bethany, I fully understand that regionalizing students in middle and high school saves money and enables a higher quality of education. As it is, however, my children have a 30 minute bus ride to the high school, 15 minutes by car. If this wildly misdirected bill goes through, as I understand it, you would expect my children to be bussed to Hamden which is 30 minutes by car without traffic, assuming close to an hour long bus ride. How would that benefit our students? Earlier mornings, longer days, less time to complete homework? Not justifiable by any means based on the distance alone!

We purchased our home in Bethany largely based on the excellence of the Amity school district. If I'm not reaping the benefits of that educational system, my taxes are going to fund other children's superior education. My property value would plummet and I would not be able to afford to sell and move to another town, trapping me in your misguided and unnecessary educational system overhaul. This is not acceptable!

Please do not try to explain that Hamden High School is in any way measurable against Amity, the numbers just are not there. Not in the class offerings, not in the school environment, not in the college acceptance rates. Bill #738 is not based on educational quality in any way whatsoever and our children would suffer long term educational consequences.

I am appalled that a group of state leaders that calls itself "Educational Committee" would consider sacrificing the educational strengths of our current systems for cost savings alone based on a randomly assigned population size. Focus on the children and the families you've been elected to serve and put in the time needed to take a hard look at other ways to balance your budget!

Sincerely,

Stacy Dworkin

Bethany, CT resident