

As a thirty six year resident of Connecticut I am adamantly opposed to SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and Governor's bill 7150 and any and all bills that would include consolidation or regionalization and of our school districts whether forced or not. I am also opposed to any future studies or research into regionalization.

I am a first generation Cuban American. My parents immigrated from Cuba in 1956. I grew up in Port Chester, NY. in the 60's and 70's at a time when our country was very divided. My husband grew up in Staten Island, NY as one of four children in a single parent family.

Neither of us attended college. When we got married in 1983 we looked for a place to call home and raise a family. We picked Connecticut because of the quaint towns but primarily because of the high ranking school systems. We have raised 5 children, our youngest will be graduating this coming fall from our local public high school. The education they have received is priceless. My children were all different, some had special needs that were met and dealt with efficiently. I am truly grateful to all the teachers and administrators that have given so selflessly of themselves for our children.

The reason our school system has been so successful and ranked so highly is because it is efficient. My concern is that with regionalization we will lose what has made our schools effective. Our children will suffer and our community will suffer. Studies have already proven that regionalization does not offer any real savings and can potentially erode the quality and character of our town. There is nothing in these bills that even suggest that this is being done with education in mind. Regionalization would consolidate school systems but we would not share representation. Since many of the

districts do not share representatives, we would no longer have a voice in any of the decisions being made by the consolidated board of Ed. This is taxation without representation.

My husband and I chose to stay in Connecticut and keep his business here for the moment but if Connecticut continues on this downward spiral we will reconsider our decision.

Do not punish schools that have proven themselves to be successful. I hope you oppose SB 738, SB 457 SB 874 and Governor's bill 7150 and any other

legislation that involves
forced regionalization of
Connecticut public
schools

Sincerely
Iris Farmer
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