

Testimony in opposition of: SB 738

Submitted by:

Doug Farrow

Danielson

March 1, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the recently proposed forced school regionalization bill (SB 738). I live in the town of Killingly, CT, and this bill raises serious questions in regard to impact on our school district and our ability to provide a quality education for our students.

I don't see how forced regionalization will save money in the long term, which seems to be the intent of this bill. Currently, Killingly schools looks to partner with other school districts, as well as the town itself, in order to provide services in the most cost efficient way. Examples of VOLUNTARY regionalization might include pooling of transportation, bulk purchase of gasoline or heating fuels, etc. I'm all for VOLUNTARY regionalizing of services if it benefits the local district, but not FORCED regionalization, where the state decides what's best for our students. Let's leave those decisions to the local superintendents, local Boards of Ed, local taxpayers, and our Killingly students themselves.

Each school district is unique, and it's a superintendent's job to recognize and support that uniqueness for the betterment of the district's students. It would be a regional superintendent's responsibility to make decisions based on the best interests of the entire "revised" district, not to look out for each town's interests individually.

As a tax payer in Killingly, I want my tax dollars going to pay a superintendent who will look at the interests of Killingly's students. Forced regionalization seems fiscally irresponsible, and smacks of government overreach.

Please vote against SB 738.

Sincerely,

Doug Farrow

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