

Testimony in Opposition of  
SB 738: An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts  
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Members of the Committee:

I write to you today in **opposition** to SB 738: An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts. This is my 23rd year as a public school teacher. My passion and commitment to the education of students led me to run for the Board of Education in Avon, a position I have held for the last two years. I write to you today as a private citizen who values the education of all students and has committed much of my life to pursuing that goal.

I fully understand many people's concerns regarding the costs of public schools in our state. In districts like Avon, the school district's budget is the largest component of the town's budget. Regionalization of schools is not the answer. Combining services may reduce some costs, but the costs to the education of our students will be greater. Regionalization will impact our ability to provide the specialized education that each community wants.

Connecticut has chosen not to mandate a statewide curriculum, but has established minimum standards that we expect each municipality to build off of. While I live in Avon, I have taught in Bristol for 21 years. Bristol is a community where approximately 26% of residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. While we offer a range of curriculum for those interested in attending higher education, the community has demanded a range of additional programs that will support their children as they transition into the workforce after high school. Whereas in Avon, approximately 69% of the residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, and the community has demanded a wide range of advanced study courses.

One district's curriculum is not better than the other, but is reflective of the individual needs and wishes of the community. These needs and wishes are communicated through the election of local Boards of Education. Regionalization decreases the ability of a community to ensure the values they have are instilled in their children and that their needs are met.

Finding more efficient ways in running our school systems are important, but not at the expense of our students' need and our local community values. I request the Education Committee **NOT** to report this bill to the General Assembly.

*Avon, Connecticut.* 1 Aug. 2018. *Connecticut Town Profiles*, s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/cerc-pdfs/2018/avon-2018.pdf. Accessed 27 Feb. 2019.

*Bristol, Connecticut.* 1 Aug. 2018, s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/cerc-pdfs/2018/bristol-2018.pdf. Accessed 27 Feb. 2019.