

**Derrylyn Gorski
First Selectman
Town of Bethany
Member COST Board of Directors
Public Hearing Testimony
Education Committee, LOB Rm. 2E 1:00PM
Friday, March 1, 2019**

Re: SB 738: An Act Concerning The Creation Of Regional School Districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about SB 738 which would force regional consolidation of school districts in a manner similar to the alignment of the probate districts. Bethany has been in the grades 7-12 Amity Region 5 School District since 1954. This proposal would put Bethany with Hamden, Woodbridge with Derby and Orange with Milford.

Amity is a consistently high-performing District. Amity High School was named a Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education in 1982, the first year of the program, and was recognized with the same distinction again in 2014. Amity Junior High School in Orange also received the award in 1982, while Amity Junior High School in Bethany received it in 1983. In 2014, Newsweek magazine ranked Amity 112th among public high schools nationally, higher than any other high school in the state.

This proposal would tear apart a successful school district.

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bethany's position regarding regionalization is that the Town of Bethany and all Towns should determine whether or not to regionalize. If a town determines it should regionalize the Towns should determine its own regionalization destiny and not have it forced upon the Town. This motion was moved by Selectman Hurlburt and seconded by Selectman Shea. The vote taken was unanimous.

Thank you for your consideration.