

Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, SB 874

To: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to let you know my displeasure regarding the bills **SB 738, SB 457, SB 874** that are proposed by the legislators and the Governor.

I see no particular benefit to this proposed idea of regional consolidation of schools.

Our top criteria to move to CT was the excellent public school system in the small towns.

This proposal is not at all a good idea to be floated by any of our legislators in CT in all my years here. A small town and a city have nothing in commonality, be it demographically, geographically, financially or representatively. The consolidation plan proposed will cost each of us, taxpayers, more than we can handle and given the inability of all of us to deduct our SALT payments, it will cause bankruptcy for our towns. No community will be able to educate its children properly, enormous bureaucracy will devour the merged communities and property values will plummet resulting in further flight of residents from the state & a resultant loss of tax revenue for the state. Everybody is going to lose here - every single student, regardless of where they live, will suffer, every single taxpayer will suffer and there would be no one left in CT. This is a plan that is going to fail and collapse quickly and rapidly.

None of these bills include any mention of how we keep the same quality with this regionalization exercise. It will certainly diminish the quality of education in our schools and thereby diminishing the character of our towns. I am really concerned about the impact of larger school sizes which will decrease community engagement.

The bill is creating uncertainty about education in CT. Uncertainty in education will deter investment in real estate and business and will create a long term damage to the state of CT.

Therefore, these bills should be withdrawn immediately.

I appreciate your attention to the statewide residents concern on this and given all these reasons I hope you will not progress these bills.

Dilshad Khan