

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

To: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Dear Committee – This is about the proposed bills **SB 738, SB 457, SB 874**.

All these bills are about public school regionalization in the state of Connecticut. These proposals are a bad idea floated in the legislative wing. A small town and a city have nothing in common. A small town and a city are completely different setup with respect to demography, geography, financial situation or by representation. 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. It will result in further flight of residents from the state & hence a 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 soon the towns in CT will be ghost towns. These plans are going to fail and collapse.

None of these bills say anything about how we would keep the same quality of education that the small towns currently have, with this regionalization exercise. It will certainly erode the quality of education in our schools and thereby diminishing the character of our small towns. I am really concerned about the impact of larger school sizes which will decreasing community engagement.

These bills are 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Therefore, these bills should be withdrawn.

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

Shahnaaz Khan