



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Testimony in opposition of
S.B. 457, 738, 874, H.B. 7140
Education Committee
March 1, 2019

Chairmen Sanchez, and McCrory, Ranking Members McCarty and Berthel and distinguished members of the Education committee, I would like to oppose **Senate Bill Numbers 457, 738 and 874** as well as **House Bill 7140** all regarding the forced regionalization of school districts in the state.

The bills mentioned above would force towns with populations less than 40,000 people to merge schools with neighboring districts, or force schools with less than 2,000 students to merge with larger districts. This forced merging of school districts could have intentional consequences, felt particularly by teachers and families moving to the state. I believe the legislature should entertain conversations with smaller districts with incentives and support from the state regarding merging with neighboring districts. However, no school district should ever be forced or mandated.

Withholding state funding to those who do not follow a state mandated regionalization is something that I strongly oppose.

I urge the committee to consider the implications of forced school regionalization and the withholding of funds to towns that don't comply.