

**TESTIMONY OF  
Lisa LaBelle  
Parent and member of CTPTA**

**Thursday, February 28, 2019**

***In opposition of the following bills:***

Proposed S.B. No. 457 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Proposed S.B. No. 738 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Proposed S.B. 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

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My name is Lisa LaBelle, Vice President our local PTA and parent of 3 children in the rural Regional District 11 school system.

*I am opposed to any forced regionalization or consolidations of schools. I am not opposed to sharing resources (central office, supplies, insurance, etc)*

*I am concerned about being absorbed by neighboring cities or towns. Even with representation on the BOE, with significantly less students our town will have significantly less say in our local school. Our community is apprehensive about the BOE eventually voting to close the smaller schools. We chose to moved to a small town and pay the higher taxes to have our children go to a smaller school where they receive more attention, realize benefits of smaller class sizes, as well as having significant parent involvement which has been proven to increase student performance.*

***We would like to keep our local control of our schools.***

*I believe that a "one size fits all" approach to this, or any issue, will have negative consequences for most. **Each town, each district, is unique and deserves to formulate and implement their own solutions.***

*I encourage our government to form a task force to do more research and help set guidelines for towns of all sizes to follow. Positive incentives for municipalities that work toward a more efficient education system could go a long way in getting our schools in to a place that makes sense for everyone.*

*Thank you for your time,  
Lisa LaBelle*