

Dear Committee,

I am the parent of a 3rd grader in the North Branford public school system. I object your proposal to regionalize the school districts. While encouraging towns to share services is a laudable goal, forcing towns and cities to regionalize their school districts without considering their unique needs creates a whole host of problems. These bills fail to consider, bus route times for rural areas and impacts on classroom instruction, current and future investment on new schools to address shifts in student populations, impact on students' access to sports and extracurricular activities, and loss of control over decision making in the budget process. Ultimately, any bill to address education mergers needs to be done from the local level on a voluntary basis. By the state mandating consolidation based upon population only, potentially puts education in crisis. Finally, none of these bills propose to reduce state education funding, rather the result would be to shift education funding to the cities.

I plead with you to consider these factors along with common sense. This does nothing but harm our students and community. Please think of the quality of education our children NEED and base your decision off of it, please.

Sincerely,

Anna M. Lake

North Branford, CT