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HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
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MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

Testimony
Senator George S. Logan
Education Committee
S.B. No. 457, S.B. No. 738 and S.B. No. 874
March 1, 2019

Co-Chair McCrory, Co-Chair Sanchez, Ranking Member McCarty, Ranking Member Berthel and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

I am Sen. George Logan, and I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill No. 457: An Act Concerning the Size of School Districts, Senate Bill No. 738: An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts, and Senate Bill No. 874: An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut.

Each school district is critical to the identity of a community. Local communities and our state invest in education because of the importance to teach and train our children/young people. As a community we embrace the accomplishments of our students and we encourage all students to strive and reach for their maximum learning potential and success in life.

As our state is in the midst of a financial crisis, we must find ways to maximize our resources and reduce known redundancy. We must look for ways to do more with less, but at the same time we must stay focused on our priorities. Providing a quality education and inspiring educational experience for our children/young people is one of my top priorities.

Approval of Senate Bills 457, 738 and 874 will force existing school districts throughout our state to regionalize in ways that are wholly unacceptable to many communities in our state. In some cases well established and successful regional school districts will be forced to breakup. For example, the existing Amity Regional School District which includes the towns of Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge would be at risk. Another example is Regional School District No. 16 which includes Beacon Falls and Prospect. In addition, there are example of cities such as Ansonia and Derby that are currently working together to find ways to share resources and services to ultimately develop and implement mutual agreements that will save money and not hinder progress in our education system. State government certainly can do more to encourage and accelerate school regionalization with initiatives that include more funding for communities that regionalize voluntarily.

I believe education decisions such as school regionalization should be handled at the local level and not by a heavy hand from state government. Local control of our school districts is part of the fabric of our state and we should not take that away.

I urge you to vote no on Senate Bills 457, 738 and 874.