

**Tucker Martin**  
Darien, CT

Thursday, February 28, 2019

RE: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, & SB 874

Chairman McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and Esteemed Members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony regarding SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874.

I am a resident of Darien with children in the Darien school system and am avidly opposed to the above referenced proposed legislation and more broadly, to any legislation that forces regionalization of Connecticut's public school system. I cite the following as reasons for my opposition:

- Connecticut's public schools are excellent and have historically been one of the strongest attractions for new residents to the state. In fact, we moved to Darien in large part because of its excellent school system and any change to that school system would force us to reconsider our decision to remain a resident. Any action that would negatively impact the attractiveness of Connecticut to current or prospective residents and therefore deteriorate the tax base is detrimental to solving the fiscal crisis our state faces.
- Studies have shown that regionalization does not, in fact, improve either the quality of education nor reduce the cost per pupil of education. (see "A Cost Benefit Analysis of School Regionalization in Massachusetts"; Worcester Polytechnic Institute; October 15, 2010).
- The schooling of our children is a local and very personal issue for all Connecticut residents. Any action to make the process less local and more impersonal will be detrimental to our children and to our communities.
- Lastly, regionalization as a tool to drive efficiency and reduce cost does so at the expense of local school administrators and staff who are actually members of the very communities we all live in. So the "costs savings and efficiency" we would be achieving through Regionalization would be at the direct expense of some of our neighbors who would lose their jobs or suffer lower incomes. This hardly seems like an appropriate solution to Connecticut's fiscal crisis.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

*With regards,*

Tucker Martin

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