

February 27, 2019

Dear Legislators,

As a tax payer, parent and public school educator, I am against any plans to consolidate school districts in CT such as those proposed in S.B 457, S.B. 738, S.B. 874. I do not believe the cost savings of such a move would be significant enough to warrant upending the progress many districts have made in educating our children. I also don't believe that consolidation will be able to bring failing school districts up to a par with where they should be. That is a complex issue which I believe will be made worse, not better, from consolidation. Schools are communities which form organically over time, and that sense of community is one of many factors which make school districts successful. Consolidation of districts would present another challenge to be overcome which is to try to build a new community from many which have been forced together.

There are other public institutions that could be consolidated, which would suffer significantly less upheaval and still present a cost savings to the state. Examples include police forces, fire departments and many public services such as 'tree warden', 'zoning commissions', etc.

Please do not pass these bills and waste more time, effort and tax dollars doing the years of research and data collection it will take to determine if consolidation is even feasible.

Sincerely,
Keely Norton
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New Canaan, CT
(Educator in Stamford Public Schools)