

Feb. 28, 2019

Opposition to Bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Committee,

I would like to put forward my testimony in strong opposition to all three bills that would force or incentivize towns and cities to regionalize school districts.

Multiple school districts have regionalized when it is in their benefit. Studies of benefits of regionalization have shown strong benefits only below in districts of 100 to 1000 students and no benefits after reaching 2000 students. These bills are not an effort to increase efficiencies, but are an attempt to deal with inequities of urban vs suburb outcomes in school districts. It is a grab for wealthy small towns property tax money to cover the poorer surrounding mostly urban areas. This is despite Darien and other wealthy towns do not spend more money per kid than mostly urban centers. These bills also do not address the rising special education costs and pension problems which are real issues.

These bills are a move towards encroaching collectivism for our state, vs individual achievement and responsibility. These bills will not have the desired effect of fixing inequity. The most wealthy will move their kids to private schools, while the upper middle class will leave the state. Leaving the system poorer, with greater inequity.

Vote no on these bills. Collectivism in Connecticut is not a solution to our states problems.

Thank you for reading this testimony.

Brian Reed
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