

Written Statement regarding SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I am strongly opposed to the aforementioned legislation. School regionalization is a matter that should be left to each individual district and its constituent taxpayers rather than forced by the State. Forced regionalization ignores the complexities of regionalization and fosters decisions based on finances rather than what is best for children.

Below are a few of the many concerns that I have regarding forced regionalization of the education system in Connecticut:

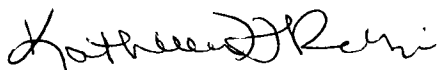
- Impacts schools that currently provide high quality education at a reasonable cost.
- Increases length of time the students will spend on buses which will increase costs of transportation that would negate any cost savings benefit.
- Large school districts generally have a negative impact on education as a whole.
- Shared superintendents are likely to cause the need for increased support staff which would negate any cost savings benefit.
- “One size fits all” approach is never applicable when it comes to education.

While I admire the legislature’s desire to provide the highest quality education at a reasonable cost, these bills are not the solution to the existing problems that some of our small towns are facing.

I respectfully request that you not to pass the aforementioned bills.

Thank you for considering my written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



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