

## Testimony on Proposed Bill 738

I am writing today to comment on proposed bill 738 – an act concerning the creation of regional school districts. While I am undecided as to whether I support this bill or not, I do have experience with both town-run and regional school districts. I have seen the benefits of both and currently watch my grandchildren work their way through a large well-regarded centralized school district in New York. I would like to know specifically what efficiencies would be realized by this regionalization proposal. Monetary only? Standardization of curriculum? Sharing the excesses of some town districts with those of lesser means? Other?

I know that some politicians are trying to demonize this proposal as “forced” and that we citizens would be giving in some of our right of self-determination but I do not buy those arguments.

I believe this proposal has the potential to assist smaller towns who are struggling to provide quality educational services to their students but lack the means, especially in special education services. It is worth further scrutiny and I would welcome a clear, non-partisan discourse of the facts.

Thank you,

Barbara Russo

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