

Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB738 and tell you about my experience with school regionalization when I was a student in New Jersey. From grades 1-8 I went to school in the same town; when I entered high school the schools became regionalized. Not only was I now in a school in an unfamiliar area, I was in a school where I hardly knew anyone. I also noticed that there was a lack of ambition from a majority of students I was in class with to learn. I came to find out that the district these students came from had much lower grades and more disciplinary issues than the schools I came from. The classes were all packed and the teachers always appeared to be overwhelmed by the students and the extra effort they had give to teach the basic curriculum. I went from being an "A and B" student to being a straight "C" student. I lost interest in school and going to college. I ended up going to a Trade School after high school and never settled on a career or career path over the next seven years.

After moving to CT I realized I needed to go to college. So while I worked full-time I went to school full-time, paying for it on my own. After earning my Bachelor's I went into Graduate School at UCONN while I still worked full-time and earned my MBA in two years. My wife and I now bust our backs so we can afford to live in Wilton and send our son to an excellent school.

I am trying to point out that the schooling environment plays a large part in the success of the students. Additionally, I worked hard, saved and stretched our budget to afford to move to Wilton and give our son the best opportunity possible. I do not want to see him go through what I went through and lose opportunities due to a lesser and inadequate school system.

I know first hand that regionalizing school districts does not work how people intend them to and end up hurting students and their families.

Please consider my story and I hope I can count on you to oppose SB738

Thank you, Dan Stein