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Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Education Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senator Looney & Senator Duffs proposed bills SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools. Having attended public school for 13 years in New York City, and having two parents who made full careers as educators in the NYC public schools, I experienced first hand the negative effects of large county wide run school systems: most relevant being bureaucratic inefficiency, disengaged teachers, and a one size fits all method of education. Simply put, it is impossible for distant administrators lacking specific regional context to effectively manage, or even just personally care, what are the best interests of the jurisdiction.

As a parent of two small children about to enter the Wilton public schools, I am extremely concerned about the possibility that the primary benefit of my move to the region may be taken from me right before I and my children can reap this benefit.

As an MBA, and individual who has made a career in the financial services industry, I understand how economies of scale appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint. This issue however is not about producing widgets in a factory. This bill attacks our most precious asset as a community and as a state - the quality of our schools. If approved, this bill would further an outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for the schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis.

For these reasons, I implore you for your support in opposing SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

David H. Tatkow