

NO FORCED REGIONALIZATION OF OUR SCHOOLS

RE: ○ SB 738 - Senator Martin Looney's bill ○ SB 457 - Senator Bob Duff's bill ○ SB 874 - Governor Ned Lamont's bill

I am strongly against the forced regionalization of our schools. I agree with all that was said by the Council of Darien School Parents and the Darien Board of Education.

In a desperate attempt to find money anywhere you can, you will undermine all the efforts of all the school districts. All the schools will suffer from this. All the children, our future, will suffer from this.

It does not seem that this has been given much thought. Once the quality of the Connecticut schools drop drastically, from these ignorant bills, you will see a mass exodus out of Connecticut – losing more money for the State than you would have ever imagined. This would cause irreparable damage to the state of Connecticut.

Give your citizens and towns more credit. Actually take the time to figure out the numbers. Let each district know how much money is needed. Let us all work together for a solution. Instead of working as a dictatorship and destroying the wonderful school systems that we all as a community have worked so hard to build. You would be surprised at what wonders we could accomplish. As we teach our children about team work and research before make conclusions and drastic assumptions – perhaps our Senators and Governor missed that, during their schooling. That's why getting a proper education is so important and so impactful on our present and our future.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Tovar

Town of Darien

Members of the Education Committee,

The Council of Darien School Parents (CDSP) is the umbrella organization for the Parent-Teacher

Organizations of all Darien Public Schools. The purpose of the CDSP is to promote understanding and

communication between the Darien Public Schools, the home, administrators, the Board of Education and

the community with the goal of uniting to provide an academically robust and socially supportive school

system that enables our children to achieve to their individual potential. We, the Executive Board of CDSP, write to you today in opposition to the idea of forced regionalization proposed in SB 457 and SB 738.

We are in very close contact with the parents in Darien and have found no support for forced regionalization, for Darien or the state. As drafted, SB-457 and SB-738 show very little thought and offer no research to support the proposals. There is no assurance of cost savings to our town. Of most significant concern, there is no mention whatsoever of any benefit to children. As parents, our children are

clearly our first priority. These bills do not make children the first priority, and because of that, we strongly

oppose both bills.

In speaking with a variety of local and state officials, we understand that these bills are meant to start a broader conversation about regionalization. This conversation may indeed have merit, however, we respectfully ask that you include local PTOs, school officials, Boards of Education and town officials in that conversation before drafting any legislation. An effective conversation at the state level MUST include

input from those with "boots on the ground." Moving immediately to forcing regionalization onto school districts without meaningful conversation and research is dangerous and misinformed. To our knowledge,

Senator Bob Duff, the author of SB 457 and a representative of Darien, had no discussion with any education experts or parents in Darien before proposing his bill.

The majority of families move to Darien for our outstanding schools. We are proud of the hard work done

by Darien's Board of Education, the District Administration and our outstanding teachers and staff. We are

also proud of the fiscal responsibility of Darien and know that our town is in excellent financial shape. We

do not want the residents of Darien to be penalized for the mismanagement of other towns. We urge you

to take these bills off the table until the idea of regionalization has been fully researched and the intent of

the bills is a better educational experience for all students in Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

The Council of Darien School Parents Executive Board

Julie Best, Co-Chair

Leila Buckjune

Anne Fox

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Catherine Piorkowski

Sara Parent, Co-Chair

Shelley Sheridan

Stacey Tié

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