

**32 Rolling Hill Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877**

Re SB 738 Creation of Regional School Districts

Tuesday, 2/26/2019

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

I appreciate the work of all our public servants, and I thank you for your time, dedication and service to the residents of this state.

I have reviewed SB 738, and I am opposed to this legislation for a number of reasons.

- Size of district has no bearing on efficiency and we may also consider that educational success is not equated with the size of a district.
- What is the educational benefit to students?
- This legislation makes no rationale for its enactment – what is the need for regionalization?
- The accountability of local school boards to their citizens will be reduced if there is a forced consolidation of school districts
- Regionalization does not necessarily mean that there will be cost containment for certified salaries, one of the most important cost drivers for each district.
- Some purchases are unique to each district depending upon the unique needs of students in that district. Regionalization would not help in that regard.

If districts can work together to purchase services and commodities, there may be economies of scale and this could be beneficial to students. The legal constraints and obstacles that have arisen from prior legislation need to be eliminated to allow mutual benefit via cooperation.

I urge you to reject this bill as it will not further the aims of the public education system and currently it is causing a huge amount of anxiety in school districts.

Sincerely,

Frances Walton