

Bill 738 and 457

I would like to take a few moments to express my concern and disapproval over the two proposed senate bills.

We recently moved to our small town of Oxford, and the choice we made was guided by a few deciding factors. The most important was the schools and school districts.

We purposely chose a school district that offered support and had a strong rating. Having moved out of Waterbury public schools this was a huge influencing factor.

Oxford recently built its own high school, allowing it to move out of a regional district and into its own district, where its families, elected officials, and town members could make its own decisions.

I am against both bills not only for these reasons but also for the fact that while it would appear to save the state money, have you considered the cost and burden it would place in the towns affected? Not only do those forced to close its schools to regionalize lose the money invested into their schools, but how will we support the districts to grow and accommodate the needs of the surrounding towns now be pushed into their overcrowded schools as well. We're not talking about 100 students, we're talking about 1000's depending on the restructuring. What will happen to the quality of education, staffing ratios, cost for busing, and the need for new schools(even larger hit to budgets).

I ask you to please vote no on both bills.

Monika Westerdal