

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I do not believe in forced regionalization as shown on the map by Probate Courts. I do not support bills 458 and 738.

However, I do believe in the proposed establishment of a committee to study regionalization and more shared services between school districts. There are many opportunities to do both, but they have to make sense. Therefore I do support bill # 874.

Specifically, in Bethel Public Schools, it would not make sense to join with Ridgefield, Redding and Newtown as the geographic area is too great for efficient busing. However, we have established a Western CT Regional Efficiencies group that last year developed, along with our RESC EdAdvance, a system depicting current Special Education out of district runs which all districts can access and many have begun sharing rides and greatly reducing costs. This group has also completed some joint technology purchasing. Now the group is going to explore Special Education joint programming.

I do support the Governor's Bill # 874 to establish a committee of stakeholders to study and create a viable plan to move forward with!

Sincerely,  
Theresa D. Yonsky