

S.B. 874 An Act Concerning education initiatives and services in CT

S.B. 738 An act concerning the creation of regional school districts

S.B. 475 An act concerning the size of school districts

I am against the proposed bill for regionalizing the schools for the following reasons:

Classroom sizes would increase

Teachers would lose jobs or be transferred

Children will have to travel farther

One of the reasons I bought a house in Plainville was because of the school system and the smaller classroom sizes. My daughter went thru the New Britain school district from pre-school to 5th grade and while she did well she also struggled with not many resources available to help. The teachers had large classrooms, too many students to properly supervise and educate. And she had B's, C's a few times a D and once even a F.

My daughter started her 6th grade year at the Middle School of Plainville and since then has had nothing but A's and B's. She has been able to maintain her position on the basketball team because of her grades which she is now captain of and the softball team. For the first time in her educational career (because that's what I teach her to look at her education as. Something she needs to do her best at now so she can be even GREATER later) she has an A in math and is extremely proud of herself for this. Two years ago we were looking for tutors. But with the help of her teachers, the smaller classrooms that give them more time to focus on individual students she has excelled all without forcing me to come out of pocket that could possibly cause a financial burden for families.

Whenever I have had a concern or an issue the teacher or

school counselor has responded quickly. Which I'm sure they were able to do so because they have a manageable class/school population.

Children would be forced to travel further. Meaning they will have to get up earlier, getting less sleep, to sit on a bus with no seatbelts and travel further on already dangerous roads. Taking away family time, homework time, sleep and much more. Which in turn will affect a student's overall performance.

My 7yr old niece came home worried because her principal had to talk to the students about the recent "Momo challenge" that has spread like wildfire. She also told me how her teacher told them they were smarter than to listen to what this "Momo" is telling them, reminding them they are important and loved. Regionalizing schools will make it more difficult to control, supervise and talk to students during situations like this. As unfortunate it already is that these situations exist. Passing this bill will make it harder for teachers to give this individual attention. But also may cause teachers to lose jobs. In a time when we should be giving our kids more time, attention, education, support whatever to it may be we should not be cutting or looking to share such vital resources. Many of the schools are already functioning at an over populated, under funded level. Consolidating schools would only make the over populated areas worse and will not fix the debt issue. We need to look at other areas to cut services or raise money. Our kids future, well-being, safety, education should not be an area we take or cut from. If anything we should be investing in it more.

This bill is setting our children up to fail. We cannot pass this bill especially as vague as it now is. Our children's future and education is not something we should be rolling the dice and taking a gamble on.

Josie Bosco  
Plainville Resident and Homeowner