

February 25, 2019

To: Education Committee – EDTestimony@cga.ct.gov

To whom it may concern:

My name is Lisa Braiewa and I am a resident of Monroe, CT. I am against the proposed regionalization of schools as outlined in Bills SB738 and Governor's Bill 874. As a resident and taxpayer in Monroe CT for more than 13 years, I can honestly say that what initially drew us to the town, and quite frankly keeps us in the state of CT and in the town of Monroe, is the quality education provided by the Monroe Board of Education.

Our school system has consistently found ways to be creative in spending, responsible in financial and facility management, and resourceful in delivering a quality education for all students enrolled, no matter what their needs or strengths are. The achievements as evidenced not only by test scores and school profiles, but also in concert performances, on athletic fields, in robotics, debates, poster contests, math competitions, college and technical school entrances all clearly outline our district is working and our children are better off for it. My own two children, now grades 10 and 8, have benefited from strong community involvement and support, as well as direction in ensuring that classroom and extracurricular activities are available to support all types of learners.

Our local Board of Education is comprised of town residents that recognize their responsibility is to represent the best interests of local students within the funding and infrastructure constraints that exist. They have found many ways to not only educate children, but to satisfy a never ending list of unfunded state mandates without sacrificing the quality of education and provide the supports our teachers and administrators need to deliver the most optimized solutions for all.

I don't believe that high functioning districts anywhere in the state should be forced into mergers with other districts simply based on size or geography – which both of these bills suggest. There is no evidence that any significant savings could be attributed to applying a one size fits all approach to learning across widely varying demographics and educational stories. In fact, I strongly believe the disruption this forced approach would cause, would set more districts behind rather than bring all districts up the curve – and in the end would only cost all taxpayers more.

I urge you not to force regionalize the School Districts in CT.

Thank you,
Lisa Braiewa
72 Church Street
Monroe, CT 06468