

Comment addressing bills SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874.

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Bertel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

As a resident of the town of East Granby, I strongly support the initiative to have smaller schools regionalize and employ more shared services as a means of controlling costs. Our school has one of the highest administrative “costs per student” in the State, and the tax burden this brings on residents is significant. I believe the State should allow towns to decide how they should regionalize, rather than force regional districts defined by the State on them. There should also be incentive packages for towns who do regionalize or increase their levels of share services. East Granby is currently in the process of looking for a new Superintendent, so anything the State can do to encourage our Board of Education to adopt shared services for this position would be beneficial. The town also approved a 9.9-million-dollar bond to support projects for the schools here, which will add 6% to our existing tax bills. If we had shared facilities, via regionalization, these costs could be reduced. The model for small towns must be changed to lessen financial impact on residents.

Thank you again for reading my written testimony.

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