

To Our Esteemed Leaders:

As a parent of three public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bills that suggest regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

My husband is an army veteran and medical doctor. Once his training in the army was complete five years ago, we were in the lucky position to be able to move anywhere in the country for my husband to start his practice outside the army. With three young children, one with an IEP, our priority was the school system. After much research, we decided on Connecticut. We both felt the strong schools and small town atmosphere were worth the extra cost and sacrifice we would make as a family to afford living here. I am a native New Yorker and was too sold on the high quality education with the support of tight knit communities. Since living here, we have not been disappointed. Until two weeks ago when our school system was threatened with regionalization.

I understand Hartford is in an difficult budget position and needs to get creative with figuring out how to deal with costs. After much personal research, I cannot find the benefit to regionalization, from a cost perspective or quality of education. In fact, I believe it will both decrease the quality of education, but more importantly, Hartford will loose a significant tax base in Fairfield County. The majority of people in this area work far, sacrificing a personal quality of life for their children's education. Without it, there is no reason to build a life here. It is expensive here, there is a high turnover from empty nesters to young families. Without high quality of schools and wonderful towns, there is no reason for young families to make the move from NY to CT.

The towns have done an excellent job of managing their schools and budgets. It is difficult to trust the State of CT to do the same.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Thank you for your time,
Tara Carbonaro
Wilton, CT