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SB 874
And Senator Looney's bill (454/738)
Opposed

H.B. No. 7150: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION.
Opposed

To the Education Committee,

In looking at the governor's budget plan I am opposed to bill (SB 874). I agree that we should remove barriers that may be there so that school systems can work together if they choose, but I am not in favor of requiring schools to regionalize.

A report by Hartford Foundation for Public Giving done last year called into question the savings that might be achieved and pointed out several other factors that need to be considered.

One major consideration is the length of bus rides. Living in Newtown which covers a large land area it is not uncommon for some students to spend half an hour plus each way to school. How is over an hour commuting beneficial to our kids.

Concerning HB 7150 Teacher pensions I would like to state that I am totally opposed to the plan to push the state obligations off on the towns in this matter. I didn't support it last year and never will. To do so further muddies a bad situation and just pushes off the problem to a later date. By placing this obligation onto the town it will reduce the towns ability to give raises, pay for health care or even hire the teachers needed. It may also cause increases in my local taxes. All of these things take money out of our pockets and don't stop the underlying problem.

I am a teacher of 30 years in Connecticut so this impacts me more than many. I know the state has shrugged their responsibility in this matter for decades but we can't focus on that now. I would like to see the groups come

together and solve the problem moving forward so that as I enter retirement I can depend on what I am receiving rather than always wondering if it is going to be cut due to lack of funds

I like living in Connecticut but it is becoming harder and harder to stay. The last thing we need to do is drive people out of the state reducing our state income.

It is time for the state to solve a problem rather than shifting their mistakes onto others.

Thank you for your consideration

David Doherty