



TESTIMONY OF

THE CONNECTICUT PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (CT PTA)

Thursday, February 28, 2019

**Proposed Governor’s Bill No. 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION
INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT**

My name is Jennifer Falotico, President for the Connecticut Parent Teacher Association (CTPTA). CTPTA and its over 38,000 members is submitting this written testimony in reference to Governor’s Bill No. 874.

The concept of regionalization of school districts should not be done without full input from multiple stakeholders. The CTPTA does not believe a one size fits all approach to regionalization will work. Many small towns have already combined their districts and even more have regionalized the business offices.

The CTPTA supports the establishment of the **Commission on Shared School Services** for the purpose of developing a plan for redistricting or consolidating of school services. We do not want districts to be adversely affected by plans to regionalize that are not fully vetted. As outlined in the bill, we believe it is critical to explore what shared services towns are currently using and how these will affect districts if unilaterally required of them.

The CTPTA stands ready to be part of the process as we represent PTA members from towns and regions across Connecticut as valued and respected members of our communities. Lines 24 & 25 calls on a parent to be part of the commission, **we respectfully request that the CTPTA have a representative on the commission**. We can provide personal parental feedback from multiple districts, it is part of our mission to ensure EVERY child is considered when proposed changes to how our children are educated are drafted.

To reiterate, CTPTA believes that any consolidation of services and/or districts can not have a “one size fits all” approach. Each service and district must be looked at individually to ensure that it is not only fiscally beneficial, but also beneficial to the quality of education being provided to every student.



About Connecticut PTA

Connecticut PTA comprises over 38,000 members consisting of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools and well-being of children. PTA is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education, children's health and child welfare. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health and welfare of children and youth.

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