

**Derrylyn Gorski
First Selectman
Town of Bethany
Member COST Board of Directors
Public Hearing Testimony
Education Committee, LOB Rm. 2E 1:00PM
Friday, March 1, 2019**

S.B. No. 874 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify about Governor Lamont's Education Proposal.

At the February 25, 2019 regular Bethany Board of Selectmen meeting the following motion was passed unanimously:

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Bethany's position regarding regionalization is that the Town of Bethany and all Towns should determine whether or not to regionalize. If a town determines it should regionalize the Towns should determine its own regionalization destiny and not have it forced upon the Town.

The establishment of a Commission on Shared School Services is a reasonable proposal. However, we believe the commission should be charged with exploring opportunities to facilitate shared service or regional approaches where it makes sense and achieves cost savings. We also believe the timeline of reporting to the state by January 1, 2020 is too short. Is there any funding to assist districts in evaluating potential cost savings or completing feasibility studies as there was when the state incentivized forming Public Health Districts?

Thank you for your consideration.