

To: The Connecticut State Legislature's Committee on Education
Date: February 27, 2019

Re: Bills SB 738, SB 454, and SB 874

The Connecticut State Legislature would be making a big mistake, in our opinion, if you force regionalization on our public school districts. Even if there were savings in administrative costs to be made, which we doubt, the cost and damage to local control and town engagement would be too great. Please look across Connecticut, we have many, many towns where local support and involvement have led to quality education for our kids. As graduates and parents of graduates of Connecticut public schools we know this well.

Regionalization would only create large, expensive bureaucracies which would be more detached from their communities. It is a strength of Connecticut to have very little regionalization and certainly to have no county governments. This move strikes us as a solution in search of a problem. Community school boards comprised of elected citizens exercising control over the community educational departments is, in our opinion, the right way to see that educational programs work well and efficiently in behalf of the local community.

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