



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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### Senate Bill Number 457 Senate Bill Number 738 Senate Bill Number 874 Education Committee March 1, 2019

Chairmen Sanchez and McCrory, Ranking Members McCarty and Berthel, and Members of the Education Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my testimony in opposition to the following three bills: **Senate Bill Number 457: An Act Concerning the Size of School Districts**, **Senate Bill Number 738: An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts**, and **Senate Bill Number 874: An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut**.

These bills will require towns to merge to create new regional school districts, or to merge with existing regional school districts, essentially forcing school districts across our state to regionalize.

Currently, there is a process, prescribed by Connecticut state statute, that allows towns, if they so choose, to merge, and form a regional school district. There are also, at present, several towns across our state that, on their own, share resources, equipment, and transportation services. There are many ways in which towns may engage in mutual agreements in order to save money by sharing services and resources, and they currently do so without legislative mandate. Due to the unique nature of each city, town, and region in our state, instituting a forced system of regionalization upon them runs counter to the principle of local control.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition of these three bills, and I urge the Education Committee to reconsider the ramifications of passing such mandates on our cities and towns, which will require the forced regionalization of school districts across our state.