

To the esteemed Chairs of the Education Committee, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members, and members of the committee:

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools, or any attempt to penalize public schools for NOT regionalizing.

I am very concerned about the consequences of the mandatory regionalization which would affect the quality of education in CT public schools negatively, reduce teaching positions, and leave little room for towns, cities, and local residents to have a say in what happens. Furthermore, instead of cutting cost it would add potential new costs to build new schools to meet regional needs, and generate bussing expenses for towns and cities. Students will spend less time in the classroom and more time on the bus! Last, cutting spending is laudable but cutting education is NOT. Forced regionalization is AGAINST DEMOCRACY!

I urge you to oppose any legislation which would forcefully regionalize local school districts.

Sincerely,

Zhenqiu Lin

Cheshire, CT