

Feb 27th, 2019

Honorable Members of Education Committee,

My name is Minnie Liu and I am writing to testify in **opposition** of the three proposed bills to regionalize the school districts:

- **SB 457**: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS;
- **SB 738**: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS;
- **SB 874**: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

I chose to live where I am in CT for the good school system and small town environment. Please do not take the local control of our school district away from its people. It is hard to imagine a centralized school district will serve its student body with more tailored attention than what we have now. It is not in the best interest of our children to spend longer time on school bus to farther locations, compete attention from admins at regionalized office and take the risk of experiencing possibly declining quality of education for their once in a life time school experience.

I understand the aim of the bills is to cut cost and I want to provide some suggestions as well. It would be a huge help to the local and state budget if the Minimum Budget Requirement for school district can be updated for the

current situation and the Prevailing wages requirement for public construction can be amended for the same reason. Please consider providing more and more such Mandate Relief to our local municipalities so that both local and state level can enjoy the benefit of cost cutting without debating over controversial topics as such. It takes two parties to do everything in our beautiful state and I am positive that both aisles are trying their best to solve a problem with their own perspectives. I believe there is a lot we can do together to make CT thrive again while keep maintaining our school districts one of the most competitive systems among neighboring states as everyone's top priority.

Thank you very much for all your hard work to get CT back on track. We are in this together and will work tirelessly to create a better place, a brighter future and a state to be proud of for the next generation.

Sincerely,
Minnie Liu
Darien CT