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Education Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

February 27, 2019

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to bills SB-874, SB-738, and SB-457 and any other bill that forces regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. My family moved to Connecticut for the outstanding schools and we plan to remain here only if the quality of the schools is maintained. None of the bills discuss the quality of education which should be the top priority.

Just the introduction of your bills has already had a profoundly negative effect on the state. No one will move to a place where the future quality of the schools is in question. The bills have paralyzed the economy.

Approving any commission or study proposed in any of these bills will be the final straw. It will ensure the demise of Connecticut's economy. Any of these bills will greatly accelerate our state's decline, leaving Connecticut further and further behind the rest of the nation. The current exodus from Connecticut will increase substantially and become unstoppable. If Connecticut is struggling now, at a time when the national economy is booming, what will happen when the next inevitable economic downturn occurs?

My son was the Wilton High School representative for the Connecticut State Student Advisory Council on Education for two years. He served with a diverse group of students from a wide range of schools across Connecticut. It prompted many family conversations about the quality of education and ways to improve it. The Council tackled issues from early start times to college and career planning programs. I wish the adults could work together as well as the students do. As a parent, I would welcome the opportunity to serve on committees or offer feedback on ways to improve schools for all students across the state. I would like to be part of the solution. Forced regionalization is not the answer. I urge you to oppose bills SB-874, SB-738 and SB-457. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Andrea McElroy