

Dear members,

Thank you for the time to hear my testimony. My wife has been a longtime resident of Connecticut, and I have settled here with her since October 2009, so that makes it 10+ years for me in CT.

I work at Wall Street in New York City, and it is a long commute for me (**5 hours every day total**) to travel back and forth. I stick to CT however, bearing the long commute, for the schools that CT provides, as many of other CT residents would have already spoken/written to you.

I urge you to vote “no” to

- i. Senate Bill 738: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
- ii. Senate Bill 457: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS and
- iii. Senate Bill 874: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.

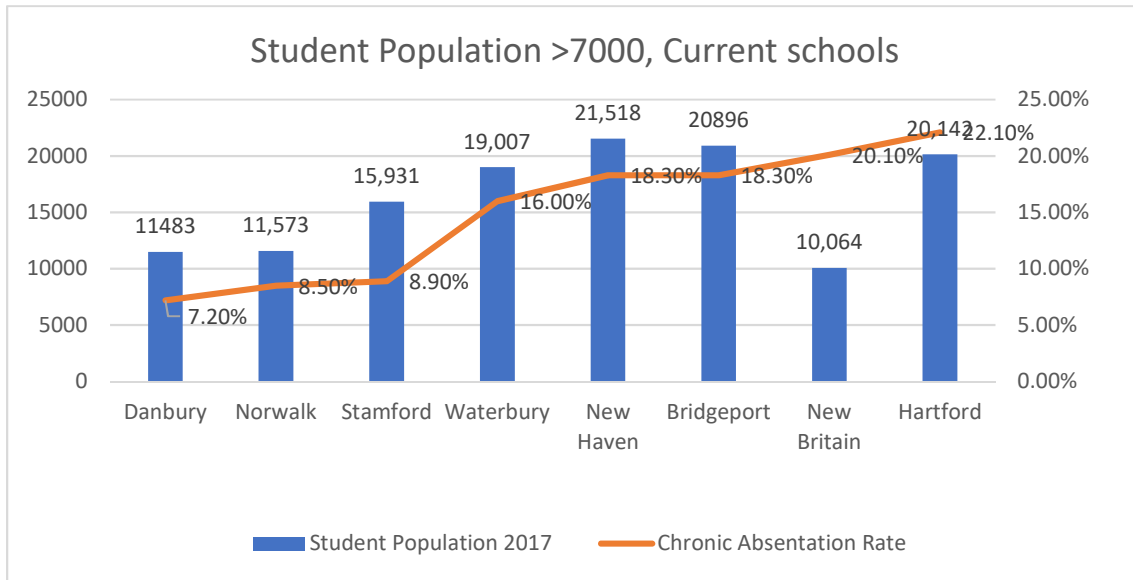
I will not try to extol the awesome teachers and schools you have throughout the state, my other friends would have already done so. I would like to present my opposition from a different angle: part of my job is to analyze numbers, and I went ahead and ran the numbers on how this initiative would impact the various schools. For this purpose, I referred to the statistics of the various towns and I present them below.

Of the various town figures, one or two particularly caught my eye. I am referring to these two, in particular:

- i) Chronic Absenteeism, a good indicator of **Dropout rate**
- ii) Number of Violent crimes in those towns

My findings are as below:

- A) In **All** towns where the student population is large, particularly when its > 7000, absenteeism(dropout) rate increases alarmingly compared to the state average, which is **~9.9%**



As you can see, Rate for Hartford is **20% for a student population of 20K** (table below)

School	Student Population 2017	Chronic Absentation Rate
Danbury	11483	7.20%
Norwalk	11,573	8.50%
Stamford	15,931	8.90%
Waterbury	19,007	16.00%
New Haven	21,518	18.30%
Bridgeport	20896	18.30%
New Britain	10,064	20.10%
Hartford	20,142	22.10%

B) The absenteeism rates for populations under 7000, however, is 3.3 – 4.0% for almost 80% of cases !

Below is a small sample:

School	Student Population 2017	Chronic Absentation Rate	School	Student Population	Chronic Absentation Rate
Eastford	151	0%	Greenwich	9,042	3.90%
Hartland	173	0%	Haddam	2,066	3.90%
Cromwell	1,973	1.80%	New Canaan	4,237	4.00%
Pomfret	388	1.90%	Newtown	4,407	4.00%
Monroe	3,149	2.70%	Guilford	3,388	4.10%
New Fairfield	2,308	2.70%	North Haven	3,159	4.20%
Westport	5,598	2.70%	Bethel	3,059	4.30%
Darien	4,818	3.20%	East Lyme	2,757	4.50%
Glastonbury	5,919	3.30%	Farmington	4,112	4.50%
Madison	2,835	3.30%	Salem	401	4.50%
Wethersfield	3,609	3.50%	Brookfield	2,639	4.60%
Wolcott	2,263	3.70%	Voluntown	282	4.60%
Cheshire	4,296	3.80%	Weston	2,343	4.60%
Bolton	812	3.90%	Ridgefield	4,929	4.70%
Greenwich	9,042	3.90%	Brooklyn	898	4.80%
			North Branford	1,784	4.80%
			Portland	1,321	4.80%
			South Windsor	4,259	4.80%
			Woodstock	857	4.90%
			Tolland	2,467	5.10%

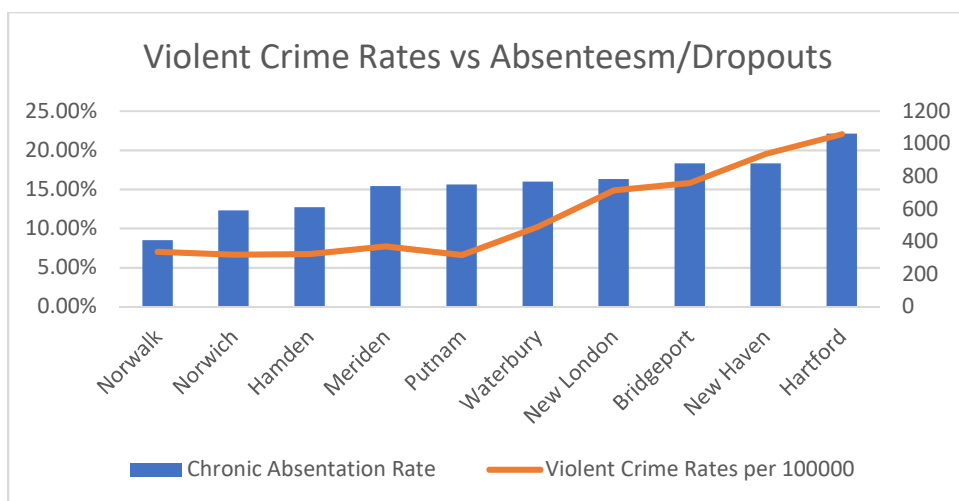
With the proposed districting methodology (using probate courts) this would be the population of students in each district:

Row Labels	Count of Towns/Cities consolidated	Proposed Student Population
New Haven	1	21518
Waterbury	2	21270
Bridgeport	1	20896
Hartford	1	20142
Stamford	1	15931
Norwalk-Wilton	2	15623
Northern Fairfield County	4	13309
Region # 22	7	13087
Derby	6	12909
Berlin	2	12859
Naugatuck	4	12269
Danbury	1	11483
Simsbury Regional	4	10801
Cheshire-Southington	2	10796
Trumbull	3	10795
Newington	3	10396
Housatonic	5	10074
Saybrook	9	10001
Fairfield	1	9976
Middletown	4	9911
West Hartford	1	9738
Southeastern Corner Regional	4	9669
Region # 19	2	9463

Darien-New Canaan	2	9055
Greenwich	1	9042
Farmington Regional	3	8836
Greater Windsor	3	8615
North Central Connecticut	3	8172
Westport	2	7941
Meriden	1	7933
Greater Manchester	4	7681
Norwich	8	7209
Windham-Colchester	6	7172
Litchfield Hills	12	7163
Milford-Orange	2	6967
East Hartford	1	6868
Stratford	1	6840
Tobacco Valley	4	6768
Glastonbury - Hebron	2	6621
Niantic Regional	4	6616
Torrington Area	7	6545
New London	2	6235
East Haven-North Haven	2	6031
Wallingford	1	5863
West Haven	1	5861
Ellington	2	5796
Hamden-Bethany	2	5785
Tolland-Mansfield	4	5735
Plainfield-Killingly Regional	4	5636
Northeast	8	4894
Shelton	1	4720
Region # 14	4	4704
Branford-No. Branford	2	4702
Grand Total	169	504922

We can expect, in a short period of time, for the dropout rates to be equivalent to the % of the district. Assume an average of 2% increase, this means ~ 10,000 students can be expected to drop out.

- C) You may ask what is the importance of the above. It comes into stark relief when you actually compare the number of violent crimes in the towns with high absenteeism, vs those with low. Again, a stark indicator of how education helps reduce violence.



D) Trying to find still any good points, I also looked at our regionalization history for current schools where regionalization has occurred – currently, we have **43 school districts which have been regionalized**, – and frankly – our records suck. In almost all, save a few, the dropout rates have **increased** after the students go to a regionalized school district vs one run by their town:

	Town	School	Chronic Absentation Rate	Student Population 2017
1	Andover	Andover School District PK-6	3.5%	204
		Regional School District 08 7-12	6.70%	1,508
2	Ashford	Ashford School District PK-8	7%	395
		Regional School District 19 9-12	6.30%	1208
3	Barkhamsted	Barkhamsted School District PK-6	3.80%	248
	Barkhamsted	Regional School District 07 7-12	4.50%	1082
4	Bethany	Bethany School District PK-6	6.10%	365
	Bethany	Regional School District 05 7-12	5.80%	2216
5	Bethlehem	Regional School District 14 PK-12	9.50%	1716
6	Bridgewater	Regional School District 12 PK-12	7.10%	692
7	Burlington	Regional School District 10 PK-12	5.10%	2348
8	Canaan	Canaan School District PK-8	9.50%	71
	Canaan	Regional School District 01 9-12	11.30%	390
9	Chaplin	Chaplin School District PK-6	7.50%	148
	Chaplin	Regional School District 11 7-12	11.20%	235
10	Chester	Chester School District PK-6	0.00%	205
	Chester	Regional School District 04 7-12	8.50%	924
11	Colebrook	Colebrook School District PK-6	0%	87
	Colebrook	Regional School District 07 7-12	4.50%	1082
12	Cornwall	Cornwall School District PK-8	0%	73
	Cornwall	Regional School District 01 9-12	11.30%	390
13	Deep River	Deep River School District PK-6	2.80%	276
	Deep River	Regional School District 04 7-12	8.50%	924
14	Durham	Regional School District 13 PK-12	4.20%	1675
15	Easton	Easton School District PK-8	2.30%	906
	Easton	Regional School District 09 9-12	9.20%	909
16	Essex	Essex School District PK-6	3.50%	346
	Essex	Regional School District 04 7-12	8.50%	924
17	Goshen	Regional School District 06 PK-12	3.90%	919
18	Hampton	Hampton School District PK-6	6.90%	93
	Hampton	Regional School District 11 7-12	11.20%	235
19	Harwinton	Regional School District 10 PK-12	5.10%	2,348
20	Hebron	Hebron School District PK-6	2.00%	702
	Hebron	Regional School District 08 7-12	6.70%	1,508
21	Kent	Kent School District PK-8	4.40%	225
	Kent	Regional School District 01 9-12	11.30%	390
22	Lyme	Regional School District 18 PK-12	5.60%	1,278
23	Mansfield	Mansfield School District PK-8	4.40%	1138
	Mansfield	Regional School District 19 9-12	6.30%	1,208
24	Marlborough	Marlborough School District PK-6	5.00%	491
	Marlborough	Regional School District 08 7-12	6.70%	1,508
25	Middlebury	Regional School District 15 PK-12	3.30%	3,631
	Middlefield	Regional School District 13 PK-12	4.20%	1,675
26	Morris	Regional School District 06 PK-12	3.90%	919
27	New Hartford	New Hartford School District PK-6	3.00%	456
	New Hartford	Regional School District 07 7-12	4.50%	1,082
28	Norfolk	Norfolk School District PK-6	0%	95
	Norfolk	Regional School District 07 7-12	4.50%	1,082
29	North Canaan	North Canaan School District PK-8	4.60%	281
	North Canaan	Regional School District 01 9-12	11.30%	390
30	Old Lyme	Regional School District 18 PK-12	5.60%	1278
31	Orange	Orange School District PK-6	3.70%	1175
	Orange	Regional School District 05 7-12	5.80%	2216
32	Redding	Redding School District PK-8	3.90%	914
	Redding	Regional School District 09 9-12	9.20%	909
33	Roxbury	Regional School District 12 PK-12	7.10%	692
34	Salisbury	Regional School District 01 9-12	11.90%	390
	Salisbury	Salisbury School District PK-8	9.40%	298
35	Scotland	Regional School District 11 7-12	11.20%	235
	Scotland	Scotland School District PK-6	0%	119
36	Sharon	Regional School District 01 9-12	11.30%	390
	Sharon	Sharon School District PK-8	6.20%	139
37	Southbury	Regional School District 15 PK-12	3.30%	3,631
38	Warren	Regional School District 06 PK-12	3.90%	919
39	Washington	Regional School District 12 PK-12	7.10%	692
40	Willington	Regional School District 19 9-12	6.30%	1,208
	Willington	Willington School District PK-8	6.70%	440
41	Woodbridge	Regional School District 05 7-12	5.80%	2,216
	Woodbridge	Woodbridge School District PK-6	3.20%	836
42	Woodbury	Regional School District 14 PK-12	9.50%	1,716

E) The faith of the public in these towns in the public school system also is quite stark, with > 14% choosing to send their children to a private school rather than a public one.

School	Student Population 2017	Chronic Absentation Ra	Public School Enrollmen
Salisbury School District PK-8	298	9.40%	66.90%
Wilmington School District PK-8	440	6.70%	77.20%
Woodbridge School District PK-6	836	3.20%	77.60%
Kent School District PK-8	225	4.40%	78.60%
Essex School District PK-6	346	3.50%	82.60%
Orange School District PK-6	1175	3.70%	83.00%
Easton School District PK-8	906	2.30%	83.50%
Sharon School District PK-8	139	6.20%	85.00%
New Hartford School District PK-6	456	3.00%	86.10%
Cornwall School District PK-8	73	0%	86.20%
Redding School District PK-8	914	3.90%	86.90%
Bethany School District PK-6	365	6.10%	86.90%
Marlborough School District PK-6	491	5.00%	87.10%

AN ALTERNATE APPROACH

I would also like to compare the savings versus benefits:

Assuming we save 5 people per school district, and ~ \$50000 on average annual salary, and we accept the 10000 dropouts:

Salary Savings over 5 years : =5*\$50000*5*40 = **\$50,000,000**

But now lets assume that we keep things as-is, and let those 10000 people graduate:

Tax revenue from 10000 students (50,000 annual salary on average):

0.06*10000*50000*5 = **\$150,000,000**. Tax Revenue. Per year.

It should be a no brainer.

INVEST IN EDUCATION !!!!

In view of the above, I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Signed

Ganesh S Mulki

Wilton CT

