

February 28, 2019

Re: Senate Bills 457, 738 and 874

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to the above bills, which propose regionalization of school districts in Connecticut. I am the parent of a child who receives special educational through an extensive Individualized Education Plan from Plainville Community Schools and served on the State's Advisory Council for eight years. I understand the need to address our current budget crisis but the changes these bills propose to our educational system is not the answer. If these bills pass, my son's life and the lives of thousands of other children will be disrupted and students will lose critical supports that have been put in place to allow them to succeed. The proposed regionalization of school districts will negatively impact students across this State, take away jobs from teachers who have devoted their lives to education, and unnecessarily disrupt services and supports for students with disabilities. Forcing children to go to new schools with new staff who don't know their learning styles or individual needs is unfair and these children should not have to suffer for the government's budgetary crisis. There are other areas where the State could address the budget without disrupting the lives of our children. The proposed bills would force my child's school district to consolidate with a district known for its lack of adequate services and poor outcomes for students with disabilities. There has to be another way. Our children should not be the victims of the mismanagement of government funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

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