

**Subject:** In opposition to bill number/s SB 738 SB 457 and SB 874

To the members of the Education and Appropriations Committees and all the Connecticut state legislators:

I am writing today as my testimony that I firmly disagree with proposed state regionalization of school districts. As a current 20 year resident of Connecticut, and now a parent of local school district graduates I understand the value of a quality education provided by a locally run board of education, and town run school system. I STRONGLY urge you as my elected official to vote against and not pass Senator Martin Looney's Senate Bill 454/738 and the Governor's budget bill which speaks to regionalization SB 874.

I firmly believe that the regionalization of the schools will create a degradation of the quality of education. This will translate to reduced property values as education is one of the primary reasons a family determines where they will purchase a home. The state is already suffering from a loss of residents due to the increasing tax burdens being placed on residents. This will only provide another reason for citizens to choose to live in another state. Additionally, there is the potential increased cost of transportation of students that would be required. This is at a time that our state is already grappling with a deteriorating infrastructure and over crowded roads. The regionalization of schools can also result in a lack of competition for quality teachers which creates a diminution of supply of quality teachers as local incentives disappear to reward quality educators. I am a huge supporter of my quality teachers in my school district; however, I am not a supporter of ever stronger unions that create LIFO rules of last in first out, and seniority over performance-based criteria for hiring and firing. A regionalized school system, in my opinion, will only serve to strengthen these unions grip on our schools.

Local education is a core value and the true fabric of our towns and communities. Do not disrupt the order that has made CT a wonderful place for families over the last decades.

Regards,  
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