

Re: Regionalization Bills 454, 738 and the Governor's Bill (SB 874)

Dear Sir/Madame:

I am writing to share my deep concern over the proposed legislation above, which considers the regionalization of our state schools. I moved here to Weston specifically for the quality of the school system in this small, suburban town. Weston prides itself on providing a high-quality education with an outstanding caliber of teaching professionals. We pay taxes today primarily to support our school system. Having brought up in a small school system, my wife and I appreciate the value that a smaller classroom brings to a child.

Now, your bills threaten the very reason so many of us have moved here. These bills will disrupt our teaching environment we have spent so many years perfecting, reduce the quality of our own school district, dilute resources and, very importantly, will cause our property values to decline. The passing of these bills would be disastrous to our town, our children and future of state schools. The very thought that this is being considered shows that you are, in fact, willing to put our children's educations second to your gap closure issues with the State budget.

We are beyond irate and distraught at the thought these bills are being considered. Our state's revenue base has eroded over recent years as businesses have left in droves. What you legislators and the Governor himself should consider paramount to reducing the budget gap is developing incentive packages that actually do bring companies back to CT. We are losing jobs. Now with the consideration of these bills, we may be forced to leave the state altogether.

I implore you to stop the consideration of these three bills. We all must stand for careful stewardship of state and local financial resources. We must do so, however, in ways that advance our excellent school systems and not undermine their critical work of educating all students with rigor, relevance and compassion. We must consider ways of attracting revenue streams into the state, while NOT disrupting the education values that impact the future of our children.

Very concerned,

Christopher Pignataro

Resident of Weston CT