

February, 27th 2019

Dear sirs,

I am writing to express **MY STRONG OPPOSITION** to Senator Looney & Senator Duffs proposed bills **PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874** which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools. I oppose the proposed bills in any way, shape, or form.

Having analyzed the idea in detail, I am convinced that there are negative effects of county-wide run school systems: most salient being lower student achievement, disengaged teachers, higher teacher turnover and a one size fits all method of education that ignores significant variation. I do not want this for my son and daughter and neither for the children of my town.

Economies of scale may appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint in the short term but in the long term these measures are detrimental. If approved, any of these bills would only exacerbate the outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for the schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis. I am certain that the geographical incompatibility of the surrounding towns in Fairfield County alone would increase transportation costs, thereby negating any savings offered via economies of scale and would only succeed in eliminating local control and harming school quality. This bill attacks our most precious asset as a community and as a state - the quality of our schools. The fact that these bills are being proposed is already damaging the state's economy.

As a parent of public school students in the Ridgefield Connecticut, I have witnessed first-hand the benefits of locally-run public schools. My children are educated in a nurturing environment where teacher engagement is high, individualized student learning is understood and acknowledged, and high achievement is praised. This is the right way of doing things and this is how it should stay.

For these reasons, I **OPPOSE SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874** or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Best regards,

Claudia Risi

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