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Forced School Regionalization bills: SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I am a former Republican who is now Unaffiliated; Lawrence is Republican, and we oppose all three of these bills.

We should be talking about improving the state of Connecticut's economy and improving action on poverty and educational disparity and school consolidate is an idea from the past that hasn't worked out.

Cost saving arguments don't add up, evidence of consolidation on education outcomes isn't compelling. Schools are the heartbeat of their communities; identity and independence are vital. Schools are the main draw for people moving here. Regionalizing schools will certainly lower housing values in many towns which lower the overall tax base and force people whose children have left the school system, to leave for better managed states.

We need to look ahead, not back, and be absolutely open about what it is we want to address. We strongly oppose all three of these bills which would set all children back.

Thank you for hearing my testimony; we are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Lawrence and Susan Serven