

February 22, 2019

Dear,  
Senator Douglas McCroy  
Representative Robert Sanchez,  
Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty and esteemed members of the Education  
Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I am writing to express my disappointment and opposition to the bills listed. I truly believe that regionalization of school districts would harm the education of thousands of students. We have wonderful schools and a great community in Burlington and Harwinton. Our community is very rural without many commercial venues. What we have and . We are proud of it, are good schools.

As a mother of three I am heavily involved in the school system and community. Regionalization does not always save costs. These bills would only skyrocket education costs. We are cutting our costs on education and we will probably end up spending on transportation costs and other expenses. What will happen is most students will spend a much larger amount of time on the bus and even less time sleeping. With our town being rural and spread out the large transportation cost increase will impact us greatly.

As a parent I don't want control I want a voice and, my voice to be heard. I want a say in my children's education. With so many changes in the curriculum and budget cuts, we strive for great schools so our children can have a better future, and we have achieved that in our town. This bill jeopardizes our children education and all that we have worked for. Not even to mention how it will affect property value and how many jobs will be lost. There are numerous reasons why I am against regionalization of our schools, the most important for me is that is proven by studies that, students accomplish more, and perform better in communities with small districts.

It is in times like this where we must really think about what is best for our children.

Is regionalization the right thing for our children?? I don't think so.

Thank you again, for hearing my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Paula Shellito  
Lake Garda Elementary School PTA President  
Burlington, Ct