

Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

To the members of the hearing committee:

**I urge you to vote "no" to Senate Bill 738: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 457: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS and 874: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT**

I am writing today as a concerned Connecticut resident (not just as a resident of my town) and parent of three children who all attended Darien High School. We moved to our current town of residence primarily for the quality of the school district and the importance and commitment that the district puts on education.

I am strongly opposed to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Forced regionalization erodes the quality, character and self-determination of our school district and town. I can't see any evidence that forced regionalization will improve student education or school quality and it is questionable if there is a financial benefit to our town or most other towns. The whole premise that towns and cities fund their education mostly from property taxes and are accountable to their residents will be negated by forced regionalization.

If financially non-viable schools want to consolidate they should be allowed to do it and even encouraged or incentivized. I do not see any need for the state government to mandate forced regionalization.

Sincerely,

Claudia Veihl

11 Nolen Lane, Darien, CT

**As stated above I am not in favor of SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.**