

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

February 25, 2019

To whom it may concern:

As a parent of public school students, I am strongly opposed to SB 738, 457 and 874 and any other bill or proposal that would force state mandated regionalization of CT public schools, or any other attempt to penalize schools for NOT regionalizing.

We moved to our current town because of the outstanding education system. If this was to pass, my family would join the long list of middle class, law abiding and tax paying residents fleeing the state. This is the most absurd, ill-thought out plan to save the state of CT money that I have ever heard. If school districts were forced to regionalize, I do not believe it would save money at all, only possibly cause more chaos, longer bus rides and more poor performing schools than we already have in the state. History has already proven that longer school days, uniforms, technology, dumping more money into poorer performing school districts does not improve performance. So this plan to save the larger, poor performing school districts will fail again.

I am disgusted that these proposals are even being considered. I see only extremely negative consequences if these bills were to be enacted. The potential for larger class sizes, more competition for clubs/sports/activities will drive our kids away from even bothering to get involved in school and community activities.

Has any legislators actually thought about the social impact of tearing kids away from their communities and forcing them into another community? Today's kids have enough social pressures, mental health issues and self-esteem issues. Forced regionalization may further negatively impact the social and emotional well-being of our kids.

I hope you will join me in OPPOSING any and all legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of CT public schools.

Sincerely,

Amy Warren

Cheshire, CT