

To whom it may concern:

My name is Amy Wasseluk, a parent and taxpayer in Canton, CT. As a parent in this gloriously small community, I oppose the following proposed bills regarding regionalization of schools.

S.B. 874 - AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT

H.B. 7150 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION

S.B. No. 457 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

S.B. No. 738 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

In addition to being a parent, I have been an educator for the past 12 years in the public schools and at the very core of what we do in public education is give every student an individualized education and focus on the student. By being student focused we can deliver a more quality education and that is exactly why small districts, with small classroom sizes, are at the heart of such a philosophy. My husband and I purposely chose this small community to raise our children because of the sense of community one gets from a small town. These ideals are completely compromised when you discuss regionalization. My children's principal knows each student's name, says hello in the hallway and has a great relationship with the teachers and staff. When we move to big numbers, we move away from any individualization that comes from staying small. It would be an extreme detriment to our children and the educational system if regionalization were to occur.

Additionally, I can't help but think of the waste of money it would cost to regionalize our districts around the state. With the cost to renovate existing buildings being over \$70 million dollars around the state, where would this money come from? The recent renovation in Stratford is estimated at \$125.9 Million! How can we afford to even physically combine all these districts?

Please oppose SB 874, HB 7150, SB No. 457, SB No. 738 and any other effort to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am counting on your support.

Amy Wasseluk
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