

As parents of students in New Canaan's public schools, we strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. We moved to New Canaan, Connecticut for the schools, and regionalizing the schools will force us to move to another state. Research shows that these bills will not ultimately save money, given the costs of combining resources, and will create a bureaucratic nightmare. They will also decrease the quality of our local school system and towns since large school sizes will result in decreased administrator and community engagement.

If some of the towns surrounding New Canaan have poorly performing schools, the solution is to fix those schools. It should not be to lower the performance of New Canaan's schools. Some of the key drivers to their poor performance has nothing to do with the physical schools themselves. It has to do with parental involvement and engagement, along with student discipline. None of this will be solved by merely sending these students to a school in a different town.

These proposed bills are already affecting people's decisions to move to Connecticut. We have friends, who currently live in Westchester NY with four elementary school age children, who were looking to move to Connecticut this year, but have put their house search on hold because of these school regionalization bills. Connecticut's economy is suffering enough and these bills will be the nail in the coffin. Already corporations are leaving this state in droves, it seems state legislators are determined to drive out families next.

We urge you to oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

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