

February 27, 2019

A letter in **opposition** of S.B. No. 457 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS and S.B. No. 738 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Submitted by:

Michael and Caitlyn Bernabucci

1 Foxcroft Lane

Collinsville, CT 06019

(parents of 3 children ages 9, 7 and 3)

To Whom It May Concern:

As parents of three children who are either in the Canton Public School system or joining the Canton Public School system within the next two years, we strongly oppose S.B. No. 457 and S.B. No. 738 as detrimental to our community.

We have lived in Canton for over 12 years and just recently sold our home and bought a new home in Canton because we love the community here. When we were searching for a larger home, we solely looked at homes in Canton because of the outstanding school system, the closeness of the students and parents and the exceptional teachers and school leadership.

It is important to us that our children are raised in a town that values community and connections. Canton is a special hometown and it is remarkable to us that our sons will grow up in a community with friends and families that they have known since their first days of schools. They will know these children and families in the classroom, on the baseball field, and in band concerts--and will have a strong sense of community and belonging. We believe that it is special to have a hometown, to know your neighbors and to be nurtured by a community and local school district. In a world full of uncertainty and chaos, living in a small town with many families looking out for each other is empowering and comforting. Regionalization would destroy all sense of community.

Having our children in Canton Public Schools with Canton Public School teachers, a local Board of Education and leadership is critically important to us. We have great confidence in the ability of our Board of Education and Board of Finance to find savings and set a responsible education budget that our town and can support.

We want our children to be raised in our Canton community under the leadership of our local educators, leaders and Board of Education. We work full time jobs to live in this town, pay our taxes and send our children to Canton Public Schools and we do not want to see our children bused to other towns or attending larger schools. We picked Canton for many reasons, including Canton Public Schools and the close-knit community that thrives here. We hope the community can be preserved by avoiding the regionalization of schools.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael and Caitlyn Bernabucci

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