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Written Testimony

SB 457 February 27, 2019

To all members of the Education Committee:

Opposition to SB 457.

I strongly oppose SB 457 and any other bill that may be presented in relation to the regionalization of Connecticut Public School. I am part of the nearly unanimous opposition to this bill.

I moved to New Canaan, CT for the quality of the public schools. I grew up in NYC and attended NYC public schools. I wanted a better public school system for my children, but with this bill SB 457, the quality of the education that would be provided to my children is at risk of deteriorating.

Recent research from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving on K-12 Regionalization in Connecticut found these key points:

- Regionalization does not always reduce costs – diseconomies of scale may exist that lead to
 - Higher transportation expenses
 - Increases in staff expenses due to:
 - higher salaries from contract negotiations
 - the need for higher skilled employees
 - increase in number of administrators and support staff needed to manage the region
 - Sunk costs on capital expenditures that will not be made back through its sale resulting in abandoned building.
- Risks to rural communities that can drive out local businesses and community members
- Deconsolidation of large districts may result in higher savings than regionalization of smaller districts.

Connecticut needs to be focused on improving its low performing districts, which not surprisingly includes the largest districts. We came to Connecticut for the quality of the public-school system, please do not destroy that as it will have dooming repercussions for the state.

I hope that you will oppose SB 457, and any other bill that may be presented in relation to the regionalization of Connecticut Public School.

Iris Colon

Town of New Canaan