

From: Martha Connolly marthaconnolly6@gmail.com
Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB457, and SB 874
Date: February 28, 2019 at 7:26 AM
To: EDtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Connolly
18 Carriage Lane
Nw Canaan, CT 06840

Dear Representatives of Connecticut,

William and I are writing to express our extreme **opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and to any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.**

We moved to New Canaan 26 years ago New Canaan, were very involved in the local community and our children graduated from the local public school system. Growing up in New Canaan was a tremendously positive experience for my kids due to New Canaan's strong sense of community and "small town" feel. They thrived in the public school system, and as a result were admitted to excellent colleges and universities.

Because of their positive experiences and the high value William and I placed on raising our children in a small town with a strong community, we chose New Canaan to grow our family. We did so in spite of the long commute to New York and relatively inconvenient location (far from major airports, etc.). **My married daughter has chosen to follow our footsteps and now has a child. She and her husband have moved to New Canaan for the very same reasons that we did: Excellent schools and community values.**

We were highly concerned to hear about the proposal of these bills, and are very upset as we think about the possible impact they could have on our town we love so dearly should they be passed.

To be clear: we moved to Fairfield County for its small communities and for the excellent school quality. Without these, Connecticut holds zero significant attraction for our family. Many, many families (including our own children) would likely to move to a location closer to their work & airports – New York or New Jersey. The Connecticut Exodus must stop!

Nothing we have read on historic attempts at school regionalization leads us to believe that regionalization will save our town or state any money, nor will it have any positive impact on the school quality. Rather, we believe this will have a negative impact on school quality, and also dramatically reduce the quality of our towns.

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

Regards

regard,

Martha and William Connolly

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