

Dear Education Committee:

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools or any attempt to penalize public schools for NOT regionalizing.

We moved to New Canaan for a few reasons and one central one was the public school system. Its existing public school standards and quality are one of the reasons we stay. I would have to think long and hard about staying if the New Canaan Public School was regionalized. Not one of the above mentioned bills include how they intend to improve school quality or better the school experience for our students. To the contrary, the bills would erode the quality and the character of the New Canaan Public Schools, which further erodes the quality of our town.

With implementation of the bills, I have strong concerns regarding the potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrators and community engagement. I am a real estate broker and it is abundantly clear that this would hijack an already weak RE mkt for New Canaan. I have buyer clients asking me about the likelihood of this happening in New Canaan and they are greatly concerned about purchasing a home in a community like New Canaan and losing one of its biggest draws, its noted public school system. We have many New Canaan residents leaving THE STATE and we need to do all that we can to draw in new ones. These bills will do the exact opposite. Declining property values are NOT good for my business or for the community. But most of all its NOT good for the economy of CT.

I am a registered Democrat and these bills are causing great concern for me and I am paying close attention to how this proceeds forward. I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Crowley
New Canaan, CT_