

Ms. Susan Gelvin
93 Putnam Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

February 28, 2019

Connecticut Education Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

As a parent of two public school students and as the PTC Co-President for Saxe Middle School, I vehemently oppose all school regionalization bills (SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874).

The following rationale against forced regionalization is fact-based, well informed and in line with common sense:

- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 do **NOT** improve education.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 do **NOT** save taxpayers money.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 hurt small communities, like New Canaan.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 are, in fact, already hurting my community by turning away prospective home buyers in New Canaan, who will easily look to Westchester County.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 will hurt disadvantaged students the most.

Personally, my family moved to New Canaan for the school system, which is efficient, effective and managed locally. My husband works for UBS and its headquarters was forced to move from Stamford because the state has continually neglected to entice businesses (both large and small) to remain in Connecticut. Therefore, my husband must commute to Switzerland, Manhattan, New Jersey, and London – and we now pay taxes in CT, NY and Switzerland due to the state's failure to attract and retain corporate headquarters. **The one thing keeping us in Connecticut (and specifically New Canaan) is our locally controlled and operated schools. Should the system change, and regionalization be forced upon us, my family will not hesitate to jump ship to Westchester.**

Please do what is right for hardworking families, who sacrifice more than you may realize, to live in small communities like New Canaan.

Sincerely,

Susan Gelvin