

Ruth & Russell Lane
56 Adams Lane
New Canaan, CT 06840

Dear Representatives of Connecticut,

Russell 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.

I grew up in New Canaan, was very involved in the local community and am a graduate of the local public school system. I had a tremendously positive growing up due to New Canaan's strong sense of community and "small town" feel. I also thrived in the public school system, and as a result was admitted to and graduated from an Ivy League school.

Because of my positive experience and the high value Russell & I place on raising our children in a small town with a strong community, we chose New Canaan to grow our own family. We did so in spite of the long commute to New York and relatively inconvenient location (far from major airports, etc.). Many of our friends with very young children still live in New York City and the surrounding boroughs, and we have frequently encouraged them to consider moving to New Canaan, as well as to the towns of Darien, Wilton, Westport & Weston as their children grow older and become school-age.

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 no significant attraction for our family and we would likely to move to a location closer to our work & airports – New York or New Jersey.

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,

Ruth & Russell Lane