

Kevin Maguire

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To the Members of the Hearing Committee,

Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is Kevin Maguire and I am a product of a Connecticut public high school.

I urge you to vote "no" to:

-- Senate Bill 738: An act concerning the creation of regional school districts

-- Senate Bill 457: An act concerning the size of school districts

-- Senate Bill 874: An act concerning education initiatives and services in Connecticut

Having gone to high school in a very large educational setting (Glastonbury) I specifically chose Canton to settle my family when I moved back to Connecticut. The main reason was because of the smaller, more intimate educational opportunities for my now 11-year-old daughter which I never had growing up.

I know my daughter's teachers, many of which went to the schools that they teach in to this day. I am on a first-name basis with her principal. I know the people who work in the office and who help my daughter out when something might go wrong at school. One cannot put a price on that.

What this small school setting provides for my daughter is an educational experience that will serve her well and ground her in her community. Isn't that a worthwhile experience for her? I believe it is.

Keeping Canton schools the way they are is also beneficial to all students as compared to the big, oversized regionalization possibility that is being proposed. Our children will soon enough grow up and

enter the corporate world that is ever-encroaching upon us. Can't we give them this unique perspective until they at least graduate high school?

I know this is just one parent's voice, but please vote no on these bills and allow Canton, as well as other towns in our state, the right to educate their children in our own, unique way.

Sincerely,

Kevin Maguire