

SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874

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Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

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 are opposed to forced regionalization due to, but not limited to, the following:

- o We moved to New Canaan from Stamford for the schools. We chose New Canaan for its outstanding school quality, size of classes, teacher/student ratio, and school outcomes.
- o The costs of combining resources indicates that regionalization is not a cost-saving measure.
- o These bills erode the quality and the character of our local schools, which erodes the quality of our town.
- o Larger school districts will harm student outcomes. Children will have to travel further to these schools, increase bus times, causing earlier start times. This is counter to the later start time movement. This will also affect working parents.
- o Larger school districts will keep young families from moving to CT and further erode our real estate values and the Connecticut economy overall.

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.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
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