

To Alex Bergstein:

We are writing to express our disapproval of three proposed bills under consideration (S.B. 457, S.B. 738 and S.B. 874) that would regionalize public schools by number of students or population. These bills would represent a dismantling of the current educational system in our state and would significantly alter the educational experience for our four children now in the public school system.

We moved to New Canaan because of the quality of the schools, the character of the town, the taxes that were lower than Westchester County and the quality of life. We have lived here for 19 years and have seven children - three of whom graduated from New Canaan High School, and we currently have three more at NCHS and Saxe Middle School and a five yr old who we want to attend the public schools. We are real estate investors in the area and own two properties in New Canaan in addition to our personal home. We are trying to sell the largest and most expensive property and, given the current trajectory of CT, we are willing to take a sizable loss in selling the property. We are very worried about not being able to sell it at all.

The New Canaan real estate market was down 16% in 2018 compared to 2017. CT no longer is attracting businesses to our state. The loss of GE Capital, UBS, and RBC and others have had a huge negative impact on our housing market. It has been reported that CT lost 6.8 billion in revenue last year to the state of Florida. Drastically altering the educational system and regionalizing schools is only going to make CT less appealing to prospective home buyers. Instead of negatively impacting our schools, legislators should be looking at ways of making CT a business friendly state to attract new businesses and bring new jobs to the area. The loss of Amazon as a result of politicians in NY was another blow to industry and new jobs for our region.

Your job is to encourage people to come and live in CT. This education proposal will do nothing but discourage young families from moving to our state. It has certainly been one factor in our decision to put our new house on the market so that we have much less money invested in CT. We really love New Canaan and want to raise the last four of our seven children in New Canaan but proposals like this make us seriously consider moving.

Sincerely,

Stacy and Stephen Mettler

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