

I am opposed to SB 738, SB 457 & SB 874

I AM OPPOSED TO MANDATING SCHOOL REGIONALIZATION PERIOD.

These are a few reasons why:

The larger school environment can be detrimental to students with learning disabilities and therefore, be seen as a discriminatory practice. Even when classrooms are maintained at a fairly small size, the school environment as a whole affects how these children experience learning and how quickly and effectively they are able to engage in learning throughout the day.

Children that do not fit into the cookie cutter type of public education will fall even farther behind their peers as they get lost in an even bigger crowd of students.

It takes away the feeling of community involvement and commitment in our children's schools that make small towns like Canton so special. When schools are in your town and are educating your children the commitment to the school is increased. In small communities especially. Many people have moved to a small town for that more individualized approach to education that they can offer.

It decreases parental involvement in schools. When parents have to drive further distances it decreases the amount of time they have to give towards a school. When they speak to educators who don't understand the environment in which your family lives, it decreases the effectiveness of teaching that child and affects potential interventions to educational and behavioral issues that may arise in the school environment. If you don't understand where a child comes from you can't help get them where they need to be.

It decreases the amount of unscheduled time our children have to play, which is of the utmost importance to appropriate growth and development.

Our students will spend more time on the bus and less time doing any activities after school that are necessary to their growth and development.

Bus drivers can only monitor children so much while also paying attention to the road. The longer children are on the bus the more restless they become. The longer they are on the bus the more energy that they have to expend by having to sit still most of their day continues to build. The longer they stay on the bus the **more opportunity** there is for situations of **harassment and bullying leading to increases in social problems** for our young children.

There is also a potential increase in transportation costs due to distances involved in more rural communities such as Canton.

Size of district is not necessarily related to efficiency. Canton cost per pupil is under state average cost per pupil. We provide a quality education at a budget conscious price.

One size regionalization does not fit all. Towns should be left to decide what works for them. Our town has needs and wants that are not always comparable to other surrounding communities. Each community has their own way of working and addressing issues that work inside the environmental context of where they live.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amelia Miner