

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recently proposed bills S.B. 457, S.B. 738 and S.B. 874. My husband and I moved to New Canaan specifically for the school system. We currently have four children attending the public schools. At the elementary school, especially, there is a great sense of community. The teachers and administrators are dedicated to continuously advancing our children. The school encourages parental involvement in many ways and, as a result, our children further benefit from activities and programs that the school alone would not be able to provide. Local control of the school allows the curriculum to be tailored to the needs of students. These factors create an excellent environment for learning. Regionalization would destroy this environment and naturally damage our children's education tremendously. The reason we live in New Canaan, this part of the state in general is for the schools. Hartford already has too much control over the curriculum and with regionalization our children will be needlessly prevented from learning to their fullest potential. We expect excellence and should have not need to accept less.

These bills do not address quality of education and it is curious why this point has been omitted yet collective bargaining rights are mentioned. Have any studies been done to see how these bills would impact education? I have written Senator Looney on this matter, but have not yet received a response. These bills were clearly not written with students or parents in mind.

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