

Tracy Renaud  
25 Colony Road  
Canton, CT 06019

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bills SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

My husband and I moved to Canton in 2002 after looking at houses in West Hartford, Farmington, Avon and Simsbury. We carefully and deliberately chose Canton as our place of residence because of its small schools and the ability to influence local government.

My children are 12 and 14 years old and from the day my 14 year old son started kindergarten, I have been an active member of our schools. I've done copy club, lunch bunch, room mom, served on the Cherry Brook Primary School PTO Board for three years and I have witnessed first hand the benefits of small locally run public schools.

Five years ago I co-chaired a playground project at our primary school. With the support of our Superintendent, Board of Education, Principal and the Board of Selectman we were able to cut through the red tape, raise \$150,000 and install the new accessible playground in a little less than one year. The surrounding larger and wealthier towns took two plus years to accomplish the same goal.

Every year at budget time, I attend the Board Of Education meeting when our Superintendent goes through his proposed budget with our Board of Education line for line, I attend the follow up Board of Education meeting when parents are asked to attend and share their feedback and I also attend a Coffee with the Superintendent which local parents host at their homes. Our Superintendent and Board of Education welcome ideas, opinions and criticism during the budget process and always listen to the issues of the students and parents. Local voices have been a powerful force in shaping various education issues in our schools.

Though I understand how economics of scale appears attractive from a fiscal standpoint, these bill attack Canton's most precious asset as a community. Our schools are the reason that people move to Canton and stay here. If we loose control of our biggest asset what will happen to our property values, our taxes and our local businesses.

Canton has approximately 1600 students and three schools which we utilize every inch of. We have 1 Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent and 4 Principals. Canton already shares food service with Avon and Region 10 and shares a finance department with the Town of Canton. Canton's cost per pupil is under the state average cost per pupil. The size of a district is not necessarily related to efficiency.

For the reasons above, I strongly oppose each and every part of 2019 bills SB 738, SB 457 and SB874 or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Respectfully  
Tracy Renaud