

Anne Schimmeck
47 Douglas Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

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Connecticut Education Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

As a parent of three public school students in New Canaan, CT, I strongly oppose all school regionalization bills (SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874) and request that you vote against all three. Forced regionalization through SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 – and any regionalization “forced” by means of incentives – do NOT improve education and do NOT save taxpayers money.

SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 hurt communities like New Canaan. In fact, that these bills have even reached a public hearing is already hurting my community by turning away prospective home buyers - ones who likely will choose Westchester County over Connecticut. Families move to New Canaan for the quality of our schools and education and the local control and operation of those schools that our small community currently provides.

Given that New Canaan sends far more in tax revenue to the state than we receive; it is unfathomable to me that our legislators are even considering eroding the strength of our local school system. As a PTC Board of Education representative in New Canaan, I've seen closely how efficient, effective and well managed our district is. I see firsthand how regionalization would negatively affect our schools and our community – without saving money or increasing quality of education.

My husband commutes 2 hours to his job in lower Manhattan; we live in New Canaan simply because of the excellent public school education our children receive in this community – if regionalization occurs, we will certainly move (along with our tax dollars) to an out of state location where our children can still benefit from excellent schools with local control and my husband's commute would be much shorter.

Please vote AGAINST SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

Best regards,
Anne Schimmeck