

2/27/2019

edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

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

As a parent of a public school student in New Canaan, I vehemently oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

I also oppose any other bill that could lead to regionalization of Connecticut public schools or interfere with local budgets and decision-making in any way.

The character and quality of our town is what attracted us here, and the local and independent nature of our school system is what keeps us here. I attended very large public schools in Queens, NY for all of K-12 myself. My high school alone had more students than all of New Canaan's schools combined. My son would not do well in such a large impersonal educational system, and my husband and I specifically looked to settle in a small town environment with smaller schools that can meet individual student needs with more agility. I oppose any effort that would reduce local control or introduce unintended consequences.

As to cost-savings, I have seen little to no hard evidence that they will be material. Indeed, larger districts would only make travel distances longer, increasing the already burdensome school day, as well as potentially making it easier for unions to consolidate power, and diluting the voices of parents. Diminished educational outcomes are a certainty. It is duplicative to commission yet another study when one already exists (http://www.hfpg.org/files/1815/2595/9230/Hartford_Foundation_K-12_Regionlization_Report_05-08-18.pdf).

Perhaps troubled districts should instead look to break themselves up into smaller, more manageable districts, and/or utilize more magnet schools?

I urge you to OPPOSE SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any similar proposals.

Respectfully,

Angela Stock

New Canaan