

To Whom it May Concern;

RE: 2019 bills SB738, SB457, and SB874

I am a mother of two, and our family lives in Canton, CT. We moved to Canton in 2004 for the small schools and the ability to influence local government.

When deciding what town to move to from our former home in Farmington, we knew we wanted a smaller town but didn't want to lose out on the amenities we had grown accustomed to. Being a young couple, ready to start a family, we were also very interested in the quality of schools, that being one of the most significant reasons for looking at Canton.

Farmington offered diversity, lower taxes and overall convenience but we did not want our children in their large school system. We saw Canton as the Norman Rockwell town, with an active community that is engaged in establishing a fiscally responsible municipality without sacrificing the quality of education for our students.

I recall a few years back, when my youngest was getting ready for kindergarten and we worked with the board of education to institute a full day kindergarten option. Many of the parents in town both work and as a result, our children are more than ready to start a full day of school. They listened to us, did the studies and ultimately, agreed that it was a path that works for our town. My son, who I believed needed the longer day, given the child that he is, had a very successful start and enjoyed the full day structure.

It is that intimate relationship between the parents and the board of education that make our schools so good. When parents in Canton come together with a need for one of the schools, our superintendent and board respond faithfully, quickly, and with a fiscally responsible answer. The residents of Canton are part of the decision making process - and for that we are willing to pay the property taxes we do. In return, Canton has streamlined finances in town and school administrations, and has proven to be a fiscally conservative municipality.

The state of Connecticut has enough state financial issues to sort out without adding the burden of local school districts. I *strongly oppose* any influence or action by the state of Connecticut regarding school regionalization. I strongly oppose any required or mandated school district consolidation or regionalization. I strongly oppose each and every part of the 2019 bills SB738, SB457, and SB874, and I hope you do, too.

Thank you for taking this into consideration as you make decisions that will have a lasting impact on our future.

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