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**Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senator Looney & Senator Duffs proposed bills PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

As a parent of public school students in New Canaan, Connecticut, I have witnessed first-hand the benefits of locally run public schools. My children are educated in a nurturing environment where teacher engagement is high, individualized student learning is understood and acknowledged and high achievement is praised.

I grew up in New Canaan and attended elementary, middle and high school in the New Canaan public schools. I went onto Georgetown University, then Vanderbilt for an MBA and now have a senior position at Morgan Stanley. I credit this to the outstanding education I got in the New Canaan schools. The school system is a huge reason my husband and I moved back to New Canaan and are choosing to raise our children here.

We already moved one of our children to private school because the middle school in New Canaan is huge. The student to teacher ratio is too high and will only go up under a regionalization plan. Our plan is to send our other two children through the public school system but if regionalization happens, there will be very little to keep us living in CT. The economy continues to suffer, corporations have fled the state, taxes continue to rise. Quality education for our children outweighs those things at this point. If regionalization is approved, I don't see how we wouldn't consider moving to a state where the economy is healthier, the school systems are strong and tax rates are stable.

Though I understand how economies of scale appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint, this bill attacks our most precious asset as a community and as a state - the quality of our schools. If approved, this bill would only further an additional outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for the schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis.

Further, I am certain that the geographical incompatibility of the surrounding towns in Fairfield County alone would increase transportation costs, thereby negating any savings offered via economies of scale and would only succeed in eliminating local control and harming school quality. Additionally, I would assume staff salaries would increase because of seniority and contract renegotiation, again offsetting proposed cost savings.

For these reasons, I implore you for your support in opposing PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,

Christy and Adam Hahn