

My name is Karl Hofer and I live in New Canaan CT with my wife and three young children. My son Michael has Autism Spectrum Disorder. In the two years in the New Canaan School District (NCSD) Michael has made tremendous strides. NCSD created a plan to help Michael not just get by but to shine both academically and socially and we are overjoyed at the tremendous progress Michael has made through his efforts and that of the school districts. We moved to the NCSD specifically for the school, to put Michael in the best environment to succeed. I understand Connecticut's educational system faces many challenges but forcing regionalization for "smaller" districts that are already fairly large in terms of economies of scale and that have proven to be successful would not help CT solve these challenges. Such changes would only add new challenges and waste valuable resources. Additionally, in towns such as New Canaan, Wilton, Darien, Ridgefield and others that are close to the New York border, such a bill could encourage further migration into Westchester NY where families prioritizing education could find smaller locally run school districts that fit their needs.

Thank you very much for your time and reading my experiences and input.

Karl Hofer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karl Hofer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.