

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874,

My name is Kolleen Johnsen. My husband and I have three children, who are currently in and will be part of the New Canaan Public School system. One of the strengths of our town and state is the public education system. I strongly oppose regionalization. One of the reasons our public schools are so strong is because they are effectively managed locally taking into account all voices within the district. The years of poor decision-making in Hartford should not be taken out on our future, the children and their education.

Regionalization in practice has not proven to provide long-term financial savings nor does it address the root cause of the inequities that exist within the public school system. There are many areas to look in the states budget to find a solution to the deep fiscal problems that face our state. Jeopardizing the education system that attracts residents is not where changes should be made.

A better use of your time in the Connecticut Legislature would be to determine how to attract more business and residents to Connecticut. The resulting businesses and residents would bring in new tax dollars and alleviate some of the burden on our state while maintaining world class education for our children.

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

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