

Date: 2-26-19

To: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

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

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. The number one reason that we moved to New Canaan CT was for the schools. Superior school quality is what keeps us here.

Research shows that consolidation does not save costs and creates other problems such as transportation and school climate issues. The Hartford Foundation's Report on K through 12 Regionalization in CT is especially informative on this topic.

None of the bills listed above mention the concept of SCHOOL QUALITY.

These bills will erode the quality and the character of our local schools and ultimately will erode the close-knit quality of our New Canaan town.

I have heard from many real estate brokers in New Canaan that even the proposal of these bills is already preventing people from coming to CT and driving them to locate to other states. The press alone is further damaging our local real estate market.

New Canaan is a top Donor Town. We provide close to \$240 million dollars per year in taxes to Hartford and see approx. \$300K back.

It makes absolutely no sense for the state to penalize one of its greatest contributors.

Frankly, it's getting tiresome to continually be the piggy bank that is pillaged. We saw this last spring when the CT DOT tried to cut back our New Canaan off peak and weekend train service.

I urge you to immediately and completely oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Christa Kenin

Town Council Member

New Canaan, CT 06840

Christa.Kenin@newcanaanct.gov