

March 1, 2019

A voice against the proposed bills

Dear distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address

S.B. 457, S.B. 738, S.B. 874.

Please find a real solution and fix school districts and problems caused by mismanagement of other larger districts and towns without causing more problems and without stealing quality education, educators and money from our town. The approach introduced in the proposed bills is bad. Similar reckless initiatives conducted in other states already showed that the results have a negative impact on students' performance outcome and likely will not be what is best for our children. Therefore, I completely support the position of "New Canaan Board of Education" particularly their position that "The New Canaan Public Schools, and schools across Connecticut, have experienced first-hand the importance and value of local control of our schools. Quite simply, it is a foundation value of Connecticut's educational system, and one that has resulted in world-class educational outcomes for our children. Forcing districts to regionalize would necessarily result in a diminution of parents' and community members' voices in the educational decisions of their children, which would invariably lead to diminished outcomes for our children."

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Lilia Khanina, PhD (a New Canaan resident and a mom of a kindergartner)