

Testimony regarding SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

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

We have been residing in New Canaan, CT, since 2006. The *only* reason we have moved to New Canaan is for the quality of its local run public schools. We have witnessed first-hand the benefits of locally run public schools. Our two children are educated in a nurturing environment where teacher engagement is high, individualized student learning is understood and acknowledged, and high achievement is praised.

Though we understand that 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 force an additional outflow of residents, many of whom, like us, came to this state for the schools. This outflow will further erode state revenue and worsen the state's fiscal crisis. We are 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.

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

Thank you again for hearing our testimony.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Irene Kotlyar and Vladimir Kotlyar  
New Canaan, CT