

Lorie Maguire
55 Dartmouth Drive
Canton, CT 06019
571-235-7768
LorieZeb@aol.com

February 27, 2019

To the Members of the Hearing Committee-

Thank you for reading my testimony. My name is Lorie Maguire and I am a lifelong resident of Connecticut, a product of a small town non-regionalized K- 8 education, a graduate of the Connecticut State University System and a parent of a 6th grader in Canton, CT. I am writing to express my opposition on SB 738, SB457 and SB 874.

I urge you to vote “no” to ***Senate Bill 738: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 457: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND 874: AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT.***

As a parent, I am concerned that the quality of education my daughter will receive will be diminished if our town is regionalized. Canton, is currently ranked 20th in the 2019 best districts in Connecticut. The “2019 Best School Districts ranking” is based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of reviews from students and parents using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Ranking factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, public school district ratings, and more.

Canton also received an “A” rating. There are only two regionalized school systems ahead of Canton in the ranking: Region 5 (5th with an A+ rating) and Region 18 (17th with an A rating). Of additional 13 regional school systems ranked, 4 had a ranking on A- and 6 school systems received a B+. This data shows that the Canton school system currently out performs 13 of the regionalized schools in CT.

In addition to Canton out performing many regional schools, Canton has a lower cost per pupil (based on 2017-2018 per student spending) than 12 of the regionalized schools. The two schools that are ranked higher than Canton also have a higher per student spend; Canton spends \$16,860 per pupil while Region 5 spends \$18,266 per pupil and Region 18 spends \$21,589. There are only three regionalized school systems that have a lower per pupil spend than Canton. This clearly shows that towns can properly manage a budget on their own, have a low per pupil spend and still maintain a high academic standard.

One of the main attractions in Connecticut is the small towns and the small town schools. Regionalizing schools will have an impact on the overall Connecticut economy as people will move and the state will

no longer be as attractive to newcomers. I moved to Canton, CT because of the school systems. If the town is regionalized, I may be looking to move out of state.

I grew up in Connecticut and went to public schools that were not regionalized. I feel the smaller environment is beneficial to the student. There is more community involvement and the school feels like a second home. Large schools and school systems can feel "cold" and like an "institution" which is not an environment that fosters learning.

I feel that a towns funding from the state should not be dependent on regionalization. We are all tax payers and some towns can manage the finances and budgets of the Board of Education without being forced to regionalize. Once again, I am writing to express my opposition on SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lorie Maguire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lorie Maguire