

Feb 28, 2019

ED Testimony CGA CT Gov

Proposed Bills: S.B 457, S.B. 738, S.B. 874

Our household is against these three proposed bills.

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 foundational 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.

In addition, superintendents across Connecticut are working to optimize their districts for effectiveness and efficiency. To propose sweeping bills mandating wholesale regionalization, and to claim that such regionalization would advance efficiency, appears to discredit and undermine this important, ongoing work. As educational and community leaders, superintendents strive to balance efficiency with effectiveness, guided by the belief that education is an investment in our children, in our communities, and in our future.

Applying a "one-size-fits-all" approach by mandating forced regionalization would be detrimental to our children, our schools, and our state.

Regards,

Joanna Soulios
New Canaan