

RE: 2019 bills SB738, SB457, and SB874

I am a mother of three, and our family lives in Canton, CT. We moved to Canton in 2014 for the small schools and the ability to influence local government.

When deciding what town to move to from our former home in Wethersfield, we considered town amenities, shopping and dining conveniences, a community feel, and of course, education.

My husband and I traded conveniences like a walkable town, town trash pick up, and proximity to highways ... for education. We agreed to pay high property taxes... for education. We sacrificed a convenient commute to relatives ... for education.

We appreciate the small school district in Canton for the class quality and variety - and the teachers who have become part of our community. When parents in Canton come together with a need for one of the schools, our superintendent and board respond faithfully, quickly, and with a fiscally responsible answer. The residents of Canton are part of the decision making process - and for that we are willing to pay the property taxes we do. In return, Canton has streamlined finances in town and school administrations, and has proven to be a fiscally conservative municipality.

The state of Connecticut has enough state financial issues to sort out without adding the burden of local school districts. I strongly oppose any influence or action by the state of Connecticut regarding school regionalization. I strongly oppose any required or mandated school district consolidation or regionalization. I strongly oppose each and every part of the 2019 bills SB738, SB457, and SB874, and I hope you do, too.

Angela Velon  
Canton, CT