

Mrs. Patricia F. Zoccolillo  
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February 28, 2019

Connecticut Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

As a parent of three public school students and as member of the PTC Board for Saxe Middle School, I vehemently oppose all school regionalization bills (SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874).

The following rationale against forced regionalization is fact-based, well informed and in line with common sense:

- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 do **NOT** improve education.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 do **NOT** save taxpayers money.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 hurt small communities, like New Canaan.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 are, in fact, already hurting my community by turning away prospective home buyers in New Canaan, who will easily look to Westchester County.
- SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 will hurt disadvantaged students the most.

Personally, like many, my family moved to New Canaan for the school system, which is efficient, effective and managed locally. My husband works in New York City. Over the years, his commute has lengthened with changes to the train schedules and, in some case, the elimination of trains to New Canaan. This is often difficult for him and our family. We could certainly live closer to his job. He grew up in Westchester County and much of his family lives there. **One of the few things keeping us in Connecticut (and specifically New Canaan) is our locally controlled and operated schools. Should the system change, and**

**regionalization be forced upon us, my family would have to seriously consider our options in the surrounding areas- especially Westchester.**

Please do what is right for hardworking families, who sacrifice more than you may realize, to live in small communities like New Canaan.

Sincerely,

Patricia F. Zoccolillo