

S.B. 874 - AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND SERVICES IN CONNECTICUT
H.B. 7150 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING EDUCATION
S.B. No. 457 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SIZE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS
S.B. No. 738 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Dear CT State Legislatures,

I am writing to you to speak my truth and my family's truth. I am strongly opposed to S.B. 874, H.B. 7150, S.B. No. 457, and S.B. No. 738. As a Canton Public School teacher and as Canton parent and tax payer I am in utter shock and dismay to hear about these proposed bills.

I moved my family and my career to Canton for a reason. I wanted to teach and I wanted my two children to attend a small public school district. A district where we have creative license, a district where my superintendent one month after my tenure knows who I am as a teacher AND as a person. I am not just another teacher in my school district. I know the staff in 3 different buildings. If I had wanted to work in a large district I would have stayed in West Hartford or I would have stayed in Southington. Next I moved my family from Wallingford to Canton because I want my children to attend a small district, where again their voices are heard, where their teacher's will know who they are as a student and as a person. Again my point being had I had wanted my children to go to a larger district I would have stayed in Wallingford!

My students DO NOT want regionalization. I am a music teacher in Canton and my students trumpet lessons on Monday, the kids brought up this topic and do not want to go to a large school. We were not talking about politics, we we're talking about how to play in 6/8 time and my students couldn't focus. I asked them what was on their minds and it was the thought they might not be going to CANTON high school. Our children are our future. Aren't their voices important? Our children as saying "They DO NOT want to regionalize." Leave our school districts alone.

Our public schools should be left to the towns to manage. Canton is financially responsible. One of the most financially responsible schools in the state of Connecticut. We should not be penalized by the state because the state of Connecticut has not been financially responsible. Our children should not have to "pay" for the financial mistakes adults have made.

Do not let our town and other towns be experiments for regionalization. Parents and families have chosen to move specific towns for specific reasons and education is one of the biggest decisions they can make.

Truthfully,

Elizabeth DiDomenico

