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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senator Looney & Senator Duffs proposed bills PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

As a parent and grandparent of public school students in New Canaan, Connecticut, I have witnessed first-hand the benefits of locally run public schools. My son and, later, his children were educated in a nurturing environment where teacher engagement is high, individualized student learning is understood and acknowledged and high achievement is praised.

Though I understand how economies of scale appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint, this bill attacks our most precious asset as a community and as a state - the quality of our schools. If approved, this bill would only further an additional outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for the schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis.

Further, I am certain that the geographical incompatibility of the surrounding towns in Fairfield County alone would increase transportation costs, thereby negating any savings offered via economies of scale and would only succeed in eliminating local control and harming school quality.

For these reasons, I implore you for your support in opposing PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind Regards,

Karen Ferguson