

Erika Hayes  
95 High Valley Drive  
Canton, Connecticut 06019

February 26, 2019

Education Committee members,

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.

I am the parent of 2 children currently enrolled in 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades in the Canton Public Schools. The reason my family moved to Canton 11 years ago was because we specifically loved the small size of Canton and the small size of the school district. I support local control of the schools where families can voice issues of concern to the school board. The Canton Boards of Education and Finance work very hard to produce budgets every year that are fiscally responsible and are supported by town taxpayers. The Canton Schools already share services within districts to help us consolidate and streamline services. Please support legislation to allow for more sharing. I feel the role of the state should be to provide incentives and remove barriers to shared services.

I am very concerned about the possibility of regionalization of our schools. The one size fits all approach will not be good for our schools. The transportation costs and time involved in transporting will dramatically increase, the local control will decrease, and the quality of our schools will suffer. Please do not equate the size of a district with higher efficiency. Canton cost per pupil is under the state average cost per pupil.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Erika Hayes