

SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874

Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I am a New Canaan resident. I chose to live in New Canaan for the quality of community living that owes in no small part to our excellent public schools. I object to regionalizing schools, both consolidating administration and regionalizing school districts. The former creates new costs by requiring an additional layer of government to supervise a larger district that covers a larger geographic area.

The February 22 editorial in the New Canaan Advertiser, <https://ncadvertiser.com/136720/editorial-keep-schools-under-local-control/> is a good reflection of my own strongly held views, and those of my neighbors.

I strongly urge you not to support SB 457, SB 738, and SB 874.

To quote the editorial, "Connecticut has a valuable home rule tradition to preserve. Local control of schools keeps parents closer to decisions on curriculum, discipline practices, staffing, playground rules, all the nuts and bolts of running a school system. And that's a closeness worth preserving."

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

26 February 2019

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