

TO: Education Committee

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly OPPOSE the forced regionalization outlined in bills SB-874, SB-457, and SB-738

We moved to Canton in 2010 in large part due to the small, well ranked public school system. We would not have moved here had the school system been regionalized. Regionalized school systems do not benefit our children or our communities – longer student commutes, longer parental response time in the event of an illness, injury, or emergency, less participation in extra curricular activities, less parental involvement, less teacher involvement with the community, and less community involvement with the schools. It is proven that students – especially at risk students – do better in smaller schools (elementary schools with enrollment of 500 students or less; high schools with enrollment of 1000 or less).

Regionalization does not work – it failed in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont and it would fail in Connecticut. Regionalization's high failure rate has been well documented in Improving Educational Opportunity and Equity through School District Consolidation in Maine, A Cost-Benefit Analysis of School Regionalization in Massachusetts, and Vermont School District Consolidation Case Study.

If our local schools were to regionalize, our children (and many others I have spoken with) would be pulled out of the public school system.

Bonnie Roman
Canton, CT