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RE: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 Dear Members of the CT Education Committee

As a parent of public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

The quality of the public schools in our town is the primary reason we choose to live in New Canaan. None of these bills include even one mention of school quality. Quite the contrary, collectively these bills will erode the quality of our local schools and undermine the very character our town. We are very concerned about the potential negative impact of larger school sizes, higher student- teacher ratios, and decreasing administrator and community engagement. These dynamics will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on student learning and educational outcomes.

Furthermore, these changes are coming at time of great uncertainty about the fiscal condition of the state of Connecticut. We are witnessing a steady exodus of our friends and neighbors in New Canaan as they seek to escape ever increasing taxes and the steady decline of home prices.

As a real estate agent in New Canaan, our schools are a major draw for home buyers. Recently, with the proposal of these bills, buyers are even more wary of moving to the state of CT and our state and town can not afford the negative press we are continually facing.

If the state of Connecticut continues to pursue policies that negatively impact the education of our children and the financial wellbeing of our family, we will continue to see a decline in families moving to the area as we have already seen recently due to the mismanagement of our finances and increased debt and spending. Please protect our schools.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele M Sloan