

2/27/2019

edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Re: OPPOSITION to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

As a parent of a public school student in New Canaan, I vehemently oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

I also oppose any other bill that could lead to regionalization of Connecticut public schools or interfere with local budgets and decision-making in any way.

The character and quality of our towns, which is what keeps us here, is to a large degree driven by the local and independent nature of our school systems. I oppose any effort that would degrade this feature, or introduce unintended consequences.

As to cost-savings, I have seen little to no hard evidence that they will be material. Indeed, larger districts would only make travel distances longer, increasing the already burdensome school day, as well as potentially making it easier for unions to consolidate power, and diluting the voices of parents. Diminished educational outcomes are a certainty.

Perhaps failing districts should instead look to break themselves up into smaller, more manageable districts, and/or utilize more magnet schools?

I urge you to OPPOSE SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any similar proposals.

Respectfully,

Robert D. Stock

New Canaan