

26 February 2019

Dear Education Committee,

I am a resident of Canton with two children in our public schools. I am writing to express my concern about three proposed regionalization bills:

- **SB 738 An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts**
- **SB 457 An Act Concerning the Size of School Districts**
- **SB 874 An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut**

I am concerned that these bills will negatively impact quality of education that my children receive and our property values.

Canton is a middle of the road small town with high fiscal responsibility, student achievement and parent engagement. We hold our leaders accountable for the school budget and there is a high degree of transparency in the budget process. Our schools are tightly woven into the fabric of our community. In fact, many of my neighbors went to Canton schools and returned here to raise their own children – which says a lot, considering how many residents are leaving Connecticut.

The details of a regionalization plan are not clear. But a mandated “one size fits all” approach does not account for the unique needs of the students and school districts that will be affected. Those needs will not go away under a mandate – they will resurface as unforeseen costs and complications. A more effective and sustainable approach would consider the current environment, planned environment, and any “hidden” costs, such as transition, construction and transportation before insisting upon a specific action. I firmly believe that this analysis would illustrate why regionalization is not worth the costs, both financially and in terms of quality.

Please do not mandate regionalization. It prioritizes short-term goals over sustainable solutions.

Respectfully,

Carrie Wiser
Canton CT