

108 Hawks Hill Road
New Canaan, CT 06840

February 28, 2019

Connecticut Education Committee
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Gregg Woodie. I have been a resident of New Canaan for the last seven years, and am a product of the Hartford public school system. I am providing this written testimony to express my strong opposition to senate bills: **S.B 457, S.B. 738, and S.B. 874.**

After graduating from Bulkeley High School, I went to The University of Pennsylvania for my undergraduate degree, and Columbia University for my graduate degree. I believe in the value of education, and its power to transform lives.

My wife and I specifically chose to move to New Canaan from New York City upon the birth of our first child. The strength of the New Canaan school district was amongst the most critical factors in our decision to purchase a home here. That strength comes from a community of concerned parents willing to take an active role in our children's education. This is combined with a team of educators that are empowered to partner with our community to develop and implement programs that work best for the particular needs of our community.

Any attempt to regionalize would effectively cripple the ability of our educators to address the requirements of our community. Just like Connecticut is not Massachusetts (and **you would surely balk at any federal mandate** to consolidate at that level), you must understand that New Canaan is not Darien, it is not Norwalk, and it is not Stamford. New Canaan is New Canaan and deserves to be recognized as such. The same holds true for our states other 168 towns.

If you would like to follow up, I can be reached via email (woodieg@gmail.com) or by phone at (203) 270-6904.

Sincerely,



Gregg Woodie