

Written Testimony Regarding Forced School Regionalization Bills

[SB 457](#), [SB 738](#), and [SB 874](#)

February 25, 2019

Dear Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

My Name is Robert C. Young. I live at 219 Michigan Road New Canaan CT 06840.

While I am sure proponents of the above bills may have good intentions, I have yet to meet Friends and Family in towns such as New Canaan, Wilton, Ridgefield and Greenwich who would support these bills. All Friends and Family, with whom I discussed these proposals, selected their homes based on variety of reasons. The highest ranking reasons include: (i) the quality of local education; (ii) the level of local real estate taxes; (iii) location; and (iv) the quality of life in our chosen towns. The merger of our hometowns with other school districts will not improve upon any of the reasons we purchased our properties. Indeed, increased State oversight and consolidation will, unnecessarily and inappropriately, weaken the towns we live in and undermine the reasons we chose our towns in the first place.

There is no doubt the State of CT is facing obvious and major financial problems. However, the passage of one, or more, of these bills will give existing, and prospective, residents one or more reasons to find another place to live, thus exacerbating the flight to other States who enjoy stronger financial stability, locally driven education, and lower taxes. You need to take steps to get us out of the current death spiral, not grease the path.

CT's problems will only be exacerbated by the passage of one or more of these proposals. You were voted into office to represent everyone, even those that strenuously disagree with the above proposals. Everyone I know believes the solution to CT's financial disaster begins with cutting costs, not moving the deck chairs, adding State level government mandates, and giving yet more reasons (including the above bills) for folks to flee the State.

Thank you again for hearing my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

You may reach me at the above address.

Warmest Regards,

Robert C. Young