Testimony of Kevin D. Case against the proposed legislation found in:

- S.B. 457, An Act Concerning the Size of School Districts
- S.B. 738, An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts
- S.B. 874, An Act Concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut

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.

I am Kevin D. Case, Superintendent of the Canton Public Schools. I am in my 33rd year of service to Connecticut public education and starting my 13th year as Superintendent of Schools in Canton.

The Canton Public School System is a high achieving District that prides itself on providing a high-quality 21st Century education to its students, doing so within very lean fiscally responsible budgets.

The Canton Public Schools, comprised of 1,550 students is a District that prides itself in establishing cost effective and efficiencies within our system. We have maintained a cost per pupil of $16,860, below the state average and the third lowest of all Regional School Districts in the State. We are able to maintain our lower per pupil expenditure by continually looking for cost efficiencies.

Examples of shared services that currently exist include:

- Sharing a Director of Food Services with both Region# 10 and Avon, which also includes the ability to share in the management of food inventory between the districts.
- Utilizing cooperative purchasing agreements for the purchase of fuel, environmental testing services, equipment and textbooks.
- Sharing transportation with other districts for special education students that require out-of-district placements.
- Combining the Board of Education and Town of Canton Finance Departments into one Shared Finance Department saving the Town of Canton over $100,000 annually.
- Pursuing athletic co-op agreements for sports teams.
- Sharing the cost of professional development with neighboring districts, reducing the cost by half.
- Participating as one of the members of the Farmington Valley Educational Resource Collaborative (ERC) allowing for discounted prices on copiers, printers, and contracted services.
- Partnering with other Farmington Valley School Districts and CREC, our Regional Educational Service Center, to support the needs of students receiving special education students through the Farmington Valley Diagnostic Center, on which I serve as a Board member.

**Our Mission**

Our mission is to prepare independent, productive, respectful and responsible citizens who contribute to an ever changing world. We pursue continuous improvement while honoring our strong educational legacy and traditions. We unite with families and the community to provide challenging educational experiences that promote the intellectual, physical, social and emotional potential of our students.
I oppose any legislation that forces regionalization without considering what is best for all students. In smaller districts like Canton, all students are known and instruction can be personalized, increasing student achievement results.

Research has also demonstrated that administration and teachers have a more positive attitude toward their work in small schools and parents feel more comfortable interacting with teachers in smaller school settings.

The role of the State should be to provide incentives for Districts to share services where possible and to support more flexible arrangements allowing for the greatest cost savings.

I urge you, our State Legislators, to oppose these bills forcing regionalization on smaller towns that have a record of demonstrating shared services and cost efficiencies.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Case
Superintendent of Schools