

Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey S. Bradshaw-Mack
11 Equestrian Trail
Weston, CT 06883

February 28, 2019

Re: **Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express my opposition to the regionalization bills **SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874**. As a resident of Weston and a parent of four Weston public school students, I strongly oppose **SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874** and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

There is zero proof anywhere in the United States that demonstrates that regionalization improves the quality of education for any of the public schools or the students involved. Additionally, regionalization has never been proven to have a positive impact on any state's education budget. The students struggle to adjust as do the teachers, administrators, parents, etc. The impact is typically very negative and it leads to much higher costs overall. While on paper you may "save" by reducing a few higher-salaried employees, you will significantly increase transportation & administration costs, not to mention exploding Special Education costs and other cost unforeseen.

My husband & I moved to Weston many years ago exclusively because of the high-quality public schools. We have raised all of our four children in Weston, all of whom have attended or are currently attending the Weston public schools. The Weston school district is nationally recognized for the high performance standards of its student body as well as its high-caliber teachers. If forced regionalization should become a reality, the quality of our schools will erode significantly & will be changed irreparably in a very negative way.

Furthermore, I feel that the impact on the overall quality & character of Weston as a town to which anyone would want to move will be extremely negative. We have very little else to offer potential home buyers here in Weston other than our excellent public schools, so why would anyone choose to move here to pay our egregiously high taxes if all they get is "average" schools in return? Property values will continue to decline; our local businesses will suffer; tax revenue will decline; and Weston will no longer be a town to which people will want to move.

Most assuredly, regionalizing our state's public schools will have a very negative effect on Connecticut overall... as if losing our state's most significant businesses hasn't already been damaging enough. Regionalizing our public schools will only serve to deter people from moving to Connecticut and will force many current residents to move out of state. Regionalization will have an extremely negative impact on our state overall. This is a risk we cannot afford to take!!!

I strongly urge you to **NOT** pass bills **SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874**.

Respectfully yours,


Melissa Bradshaw-Mack