

Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez and members of the Education Committee,

I am in strong opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 and ask that you vote against these bills as they would destroy the high quality of education that our children receive today.

I am a proud graduate of the Weston public school system. The education I received in Weston rivals that which most private schools provide to their students. While I graduated almost 29 years ago, the Weston school system has grown in numbers and in performance in my absence. My family recently returned to Weston primarily to have our elementary age children attend the Weston school system. Having lived in other states, we are able to confidently say that the Weston school system is leaps and bounds ahead of others schools we that have had our children enrolled in and that is due to the small, single town, school district based education system. Regionalization will negatively impact the education that our students receive. Small town based school systems allow each town to set their own agenda, use their own financial resources and set their own priorities.

Since the founding of the town of Weston, the tax payers have built the assets of Weston that are freely available to anyone that moves to Weston. Those who move to Weston today benefit from the long history of residents paying taxes. So in a sense of fairness, a system that has been built by the taxes of the citizens of Weston, why should someone be able to instantly get the same benefit that our citizens have been building for decades.

Regionalization has never worked. It over burdens the successful school districts and doesn't help the failing schools. The state should promote the reform of the systems that are in trouble - not just throw money at them or merge with successful districts. Identify the schools in trouble and help them by reforming and restructuring from the bottom up. The focus should be on helping the lower performing schools. Don't over burden the schools that are doing fine as it will drag them down.

I am a proud past and current resident of the town of Weston. Our children are thriving in the Weston public school system. Please oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Best Regards,  
Debbie Carrothers  
10 November Trail

Weston, CT 06883