

Testimony for Public Hearing
Education and Appropriations Committee
March 1, 2019

Archana Dutta
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Weston, CT 06883

S.B. No. 738: Act concerning the creation of Regional School Districts

S.B. No. 457: Act concerning the size of School Districts

S.B. No. 874: Act concerning Education Initiatives and Services in Connecticut

Dear Education and Appropriations Committee Members,

We are the parents of a 3rd Grader in Weston. We are writing this to voice our concerns regarding regionalization of CT schools as proposed in the above bills.

Like most Weston residents, we take great pride in its schools. Eight years back when we moved to this small town, we paid almost \$100K more for the house than similar properties listed in nearby towns. That took all our savings at that time, but we went ahead, knowing that we are investing the money towards our kid's education. Each year, we have been paying at least \$3K more in property taxes compared to similar homes in nearby towns. However, we take comfort in the fact that Weston high school ranks highly in one of the country's best high schools and will most likely continue to stay that way.

Our small community is highly committed to maintaining and improving its schools. We organized several fundraising events in last couple of years to raise money for rebuilding the elementary school playground. We are proud of our strong and dedicated team of PTO members who organize additional events and enrichment programs for the parents and kids.

We are highly concerned that the proposed bills will adversely affect the quality of education for our schools. It would be demoralizing for many parents like us whose primary reason for choosing this town is its school system and have invested their time and money in it. It would be heartbreaking if the money that we put into our house disappears due to diminishing property value. We therefore request that our town keep control over our schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Archana Dutta
Sumanta Dutta