Sadie L. Marjani
41 Merry Lane
Weston, CT 06883

February 28, 2019

Dear members of CT State Legislature's Committee on Education:

As a parent of a second-grader and soon-to-be kindergartener in Weston public schools, I strongly oppose SB-738, SB-457 and SB-874 or any other bill that forces regionalization of Connecticut public schools. There is little evidence to support the notion that the proposed regionalization of school districts would result in cost savings, while concerns that it would impact education quality are significant.

I am an associate professor of biology at Central Connecticut State University and my husband is an attorney at a law firm in Stamford. We moved to Weston in 2014 right before the birth of our second child. We could live anywhere in between New Britain and Stamford, but specifically chose to buy a home and raise our family in Weston (and chose to stay in Connecticut after earning our advanced degrees) because of its high-quality public school system and sense of community. Many Weston residents have chosen to live in Weston and in Connecticut for the same reasons. There is a legitimate concern that anything that diminishes the quality of our schools could lead to residents leaving Connecticut for other states, with predictable adverse effects on the Connecticut economy and future growth of the state.

The Weston School District consistently ranks in the top ten in the state and Weston High School was ranked 458 nationally according to the recent ranking done by the U.S. News and World Report. Weston is a small town with little commercial development. The school district is the heart of the community and the number one reason people move to Weston; any attempts to merge with other school districts would impact education quality and diminish the unique character, identity and the quality of our community.

I hope you will oppose SB-738, SB-457, and SB-874, and any other legislation that proposes forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Sadie L. Marjani, Ph.D.