

To: Members of the Connecticut State General Assembly
Education Committee
Re: Senate Bills 738, 457, 874

Dear members,

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the above proposed bills. These bills chip away at our town's control over our children's education. Though here in Weston we have been told that the bills will not affect our town, I do believe that even sharing services and positions, such as Superintendent, will negatively effect our children's education. Furthermore, sharing even a few services can pave the way for further integration of school districts down the road. This not only would be very complicated, but increased travel time, larger class sizes, etc would have a devastating effect on our student's success. In turn, this forced regionalization would negatively impact our small towns. We moved here three years ago from Michigan. We chose our home in Weston for the schools, firstly, and for the open space and small town-feel. We have 5 children in Weston Public Schools. The difference between Weston and Michigan schools was evident from our first few days here. The small class sizes and top rated teachers have meant my children get a lot of attention and are in a supportive environment that is conducive to learning. Communication with parents is excellent. With so much of our local tax dollars going to the schools, my children have so many resources to succeed in the classroom. One of my boys has also had an IEP and has done very well. I can't imagine what things would be like if forced regionalization were to occur.

In summary, please vote against SB 738, 457 and 874. They will hurt our students and towns.

Sincerely,
Alison McElhone
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Weston, CT 06883