

February 28, 2019

To the Education Committee,

As a parent of a current and future public-school students in Weston, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced or punitive measures for regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

My name is Lauren Roth and to tell you a little bit about myself, I am a full-time working mom who moved to Weston three years ago for my kid's education. I am the granddaughter of two holocaust survivors, a kindergarten teacher, and a small business owner who was also a veteran. My mother grew up in Flint, Michigan and my father grew up in the Bronx. Their parents had told them that the most important thing in life was getting an excellent education and they prioritized education to ensure the success of future generations. This was something that my parents taught me to pass on to my children as well as they invested in me and my future. All of us have made sacrifices in the name of education to support our families and help elevate communities we live in.

I was working full-time when my husband was completing his post-graduate degree and supporting him. I came out inheriting his student loans that were six figures, but that was an investment that we wanted to make into our futures. When we decided to have children, we knew that we wanted to move somewhere where education came first even if we had to make other sacrifices in our lives like living closer to family to help support us. We rotated our days off and my husband picked up weekends, so he could have Thursday/Friday with the kids, and I would spend the time with them on weekends to save on our daycare expenses.

We knew nobody in Connecticut but knew that the schools were top ranked and so we moved. We started with an apartment in Stamford, having both of our boys there, while saving up for a house. Finally saving enough for a down payment and knowing Kindergarten was around the corner, we found our forever home in Weston.

Now our schools are being threatened. If this legislation moves forward, not only will this impede other families like us from moving to Connecticut, but we will be forced to consider if this is still the state for us.

I am not a politician, but I am a firm believer in finding solutions for education for all kids, but what has been proposed in this legislation is not the answer. The state of Connecticut can do better and be better than what has been proposed. I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced or punitive measures for regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Best Regards,  
Lauren Roth