

I would like to submit the following testimony in Opposition to SB No 738, SB No. 874, SB No. 457 and HB No. 7150.

CT REALTORS® (CTR) believes that Connecticut's excellent school system is a major selling point for those considering a move to Connecticut. Our highly educated workforce is recognized by businesses considering expansion or relocation to Connecticut. • CTR encourages all involved in the regionalism debate to affirmatively and emphatically confirm that the discussion is about shared services and administration where cost and academic benefits can be realized – and not about forced closures and redistricting. • CTR supports the preparation of cost/benefit analyses that highlight successful efforts in shared administration and other services. CTR also supports sharing examples of where merged efforts resulted in no savings or higher costs. • CTR supports changes to the statute that can open up the potential for schools to share resources more affordably. • CTR opposes mandates in recognition they can often increase costs, not reduce costs. • CTR supports all efforts to make Connecticut an ideal place to live and work. Schools are a cornerstone of the attraction to living and working in Connecticut. NOTE: Headlines that hint or state multiple school closures are imminent have an immediate chilling effect on both real estate buyers and sellers. Lack of certainty about a family's possible school commute impacts a willingness to buy and sometimes even a willingness to rent in our communities. Buyers have a choice about whether to invest in a home or not, and whether to invest in our state or not.

Resprctfully submitted,

Joe Scozzafava

**2019 Vice President, Connecticut Association of Realtors
2018 Committee Member, National Association of Realtors
2016 & 2017 President, New Canaan Board of Realtors**

**William Raveis Real Estate
4 Elm Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
joe.scozzafava@raveis.com
jjscozz@gmail.com
203.858.6545
Licensed in Connecticut**