

**LAURA METZGER LYNCH
162 RANGE ROAD
WILTON, CT 06897**

February 28, 2019

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Laura Lynch and I live in Wilton, CT. As a parent of twin four-year-old boys that will enter the Wilton public school's kindergarten class this fall 2019, **I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 and any bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.**

The quality of the public schools in CT – is one of the jewels of this state. I grew up in Redding, CT from 1972 until I graduated Princeton University in 1993. It's worth noting that both I and my two older brothers attended Joel Barlow public high school in Redding, CT. All three of us attended Princeton University. We are products of CT's public schools – and proof of their quality. Please do not change and ultimately break something in this state that is not broken. **I believe forced regionalization will do that – break CT's public schools.**

In Aug of 2017 **I made the decision to move back to CT** from NY with my husband and (at the time) almost 3-year-old twin boys, almost **solely because of the quality of the public school systems** here. We stretched ourselves financially to buy a house in Wilton over other towns – solely because of the excellent public schools in Wilton. We both work in Manhattan – but didn't move to NY or NJ because I wanted my boys to have the phenomenal public school experience that I did.

Education should not be one-stop shopping – or one-size fits all – which is how regionalization will treat the system. Bigger is most certainly not better for our public schools. Each school and community across this state faces their own unique challenges – and require individualized oversight and attention.

Regionalization does not allow for this. Please don't destroy our public schools!!

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Laura Metzger Lynch