

Dear Senators and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Zachary Roth, and I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other bill that allows any form of forced and/or punitive regionalization of Connecticut public schools. I am 34 years old and have started a young family here in Weston, CT. I have two boys, Max and Ethan who are 5 and 3 years old. Max started kindergarten in Weston's public school system this past year and he is so happy there. As parents we are thrilled he is there and are very satisfied with the education he is getting and will continue to receive. This was the reason why we chose to move to Weston three years ago.

Prior to deciding to move and purchase our first home, we focused our efforts on finding the best school. We understood that moving to Weston was going to be a huge financial undertaking for us and honestly a financial stretch for us to move to a town with such a high cost of living, expensive homes, and high taxes. We decided and were willing to sacrifice in other parts of our lives to make it happen. I picked up work on weekends, which is unfortunately time spent away from my family, but necessary to make sure we can pay our mortgage and meet our monthly expenses. In addition to my schedule, my wife has a full time job as well as we juggle picking up the kids at an after school program and daycare. We still have the burden of paying back student loans from my education at NYU. We have made other sacrifices, such as postponing having a third child as we want to be able to support the family fully financially. We felt that these tradeoffs were worth it because we have the knowledge that our two sons are entering Weston's excellent school district and will receive such a strong education.

Education has always been the most important factor for us in deciding where we should live. We are tremendously worried with the passing of bill 738, 457, or any form of school regionalization the quality of our children's education will be reduced and their opportunities compromised. This expansion would harm student and parent engagement in the school system and would be harmful to our tight-knit community in Weston overall. This is not just about our district, but the impact it will have on all others this effects. We do not want local control taken away from school districts. It is really unfortunate that my wife and I have decided if any of these bills pass, we will need to consider leaving Weston and possibly the state of CT. This is of great concern to my family, we hope our voices will be heard and you will help us oppose these bills SB 738, SB 475, and SB 874f or any such bill that would permit forced school regionalization.

Sincerely,

Dr. Zachary Roth