

Connecticut Legislators & Board of Education,

My name is Monica Staehely. I am 28 years old and I live in Westport, Connecticut. I moved here almost three years ago and I have two children. My son is 2 years old and my daughter is almost 3 months old. As a parent of future public school students, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. We chose the town of Westport when looking for homes due to the top tier public education. We wanted to raise our family in one location and have them grow with a community and share in experiences with our neighbors and friends in our town. Our local Board of Education has done a fabulous job with our elected town Selectmen to ensure the future of our town which is heavily weighted on ensuring the best public schools. Our neighbors and friends have spent a lot of money to purchase homes in an area where this was available, if you take this away from our town you will be diminishing the value of our education system and another large asset our home value. I reject the idea of regionalized school systems. I urge you to vote this idea down and to listen to what we are saying. Our town is fortunate where many can send their children to private schools and/or move out of the state. But, correct me if I am wrong, don't we want to be building our economy? Don't we want incentives to bring more people to our state? This bill will be creating the opposite effect. When families are given the choice to move out of NYC and find a home they will not be thinking Connecticut and we need to ensure Connecticut is at the forefront. Long term plans need to be taken into consideration and be kept in mind. I appreciate you taking the time to read through this. I would also like to mention I am a real estate agent in Connecticut and the buzz I have been hearing from families trying to move in about this issue is alarming and hurting our economy already, please don't let it get even further.

Thank You,  
Monica Staehely  
Westport

Monica Staehely  
Realtor  
KW Prestige Properties  
847.858.5837