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.

Respectfully 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

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