

# TOWN of WESTON, CONNECTICUT



Incorporated 1787

Selectmen's Office

February 21, 2019

As your local town leaders we strive to be thoughtful advocates for the interests of Weston residents. We are aware that for many in our town the tax burden is great. The Board of Selectmen is committed to carefully developing budgets that balance town and school services with fiscal responsibility. Additionally, we continually seek ways to partner with neighboring towns to create efficiencies through voluntary regionalization measures.

We have closely reviewed three recent Connecticut State Senate Bills: SB-738, SB-431 and SB-457, and have notified our legislative representatives of the negative impact these bills would have on the quality of Weston's schools and property values.

We hope you will join us in opposition to SB-738 and SB-457 or any other future bill that forces us to regionalize our schools. The small, intimate nature of Weston Public Schools is a top reason cited by homebuyers deciding to reside our town. The financial impact of school district regionalization would be particularly severe for Weston given our small commercial tax base. Furthermore, as a matter of principle we believe towns should have control over their schools. Although we are not opposed to educational reform, the bills proposed in the State Senate are poorly conceived.

We also stand united in opposing SB 431, a bill that calls for the imposition of a statewide property tax to be levied in addition to existing municipal property taxes. Weston residents already struggle with property taxes and this bill will further discourage Weston home sales and make it untenable for many current residents to remain.

We urge every Weston resident to join us in opposing these bills.