

To The State of Connecticut Education Committee,

As a parent of two elementary-aged children in public school, a resident of Wilton, a Connecticut native, and a small business owner in this state, I am writing to voice my firm opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

When we moved to Wilton two months ago from Stamford, I saw the immediate benefit of a smaller school district. Every child in our state deserves the quality of education offered in Wilton. School regionalization threatens to do the exact opposite of that. Larger school districts do not benefit students, educators or communities. I saw firsthand how often the dedicated teachers and administrators in Stamford were overworked and stretched so thin. Resources should be added to our schools, not taken away.

I grew up in Stamford, moved to New York and opted to return to Connecticut to raise my family because I believe in the value of this state and all that it has to offer. None of these proposed bills mention an impact on the quality of our schools, they focus only on cutting costs. I understand the state is facing dire fiscal circumstances, but please do not sacrifice our children and their education. There simply has to be a better way.

I hope you choose to invest in the future of Connecticut and oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other legislation that could lead to the forced regionalization of our schools.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Baumgold