

Please see the below as attached/written testimony opposing SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874:

To the CT State and Legislative Leaders and General Assembly Education Committee Members:

We are writing to express our extreme opposition to forced school regionalization, and both Senator Looney's bill SB 738 and Senator Duff's bill SB 457 and Governor Lamont's bill SB 874.

We both graduated from Norwalk Public Schools, and three of our four parents are retired school teachers from the City of Norwalk. When we graduated college we returned to Norwalk to start a family. Within a few years of living in Norwalk with our oldest child we decided with the help of our parents that a smaller school system would be the best for our children. We chose Wilton because it attracts the best teachers, and administrators, who value personal connections and the individual performance of their students. We noticed almost immediately when switching school systems that Wilton had significantly more student and parent engagement. This only enforced that we made the correct decision.

Wilton is a close-knit community with an excellent reputation. We believe that any regionalization will be a detriment to the quality of our highly rated school system. The regionalization of schools must start with education quality, and there is no proof that larger schools are better than smaller ones. In fact, when hearing from those in states/districts with regionalized schools, the sentiment is negative.

Regionalization of Wilton schools with any other town will negatively impact the dynamic of our community and the reason we moved to Wilton. Please protect the welfare of our children, our schools and our town. The people of Connecticut have spoken out vehemently against SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other effort to force regionalization of Connecticut public schools. Please listen and oppose these bills.

Sincerely,

Kenneth & Amy Bernheim
92 Washington Post Drive
Wilton, CT

92 Washington Post Drive
Wilton, CT 06897