

February 27, 2019

To edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

From: Angie Bertolino

Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

My name is Angie Bertolino and I live in California with my growing family. Over 2 and a half years ago, we stumbled upon Wilton, CT. We found it on a map researching the BEST schools and safest communities to raise a family in America.

We took a leap of faith and flew out a couple of times to look at houses and to check out the schools. Wilton was very impressive and was exactly what we were looking for! We loved that Wilton was its own town. We felt that it would be insulated from outside politics and the schools and community would be protected.

Let me be clear - we could move ANYWHERE in the US and we CHOSE Wilton, Connecticut SPECIFICALLY FOR THE SCHOOLS - it is quite a special place with a small town feel, great class sizes and great test scores! We are vehemently opposed to bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

On January 25th, 2019 we saw that fateful headline regarding the potential regionalization of the Connecticut schools. Had we fully digested the gravity of the situation, we would NOT have sold our home here in California that same day. We would have stayed and waited out this devastating debacle.

Our knee jerk reaction was to look up the probate lines and then see which neighboring towns looked to be least affected. We then spent a good 48 hours looking at houses in Westport and New Canaan. We have to be out of our (now sold) home in April.

This news changes everything. Instead of happily purchasing a home in Connecticut, we are now going to rent (and waste money) or continue to look at other states where forced regionalization is not an option. This is sad because there were several houses we were considering buying.

We do not understand why Connecticut is INTENTIONALLY sabotaging their best assets - THE SCHOOLS. The local communities are doing a fantastic job of ensuring that their educational system is top notch and promoted as such. Otherwise, Connecticut would NOT have been on our radar. Connecticut schools are the cornerstone of what makes your state so great!

We are adamantly opposed to the following bills: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools. These bills are detrimental to the your great state. Do not make the mistake of turning Connecticut into California.

I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and ANY other legislation that leaves open the possibility of forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,
Angie Bertolino