

February 27, 2019

Dear Members of the Education Committee:

As parents of children enrolled in Wilton public schools, we strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, SB 454/738 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

The number one reason that we moved to Wilton was that we knew that our children would benefit from the high quality education Wilton provides it's tax paying residents. Moreover, the people in Wilton are committed and motivated to do what is right for their children and community. We know we are among many who greatly oppose what is being discussed for the future of our schools.

After reading what is proposed under the aforementioned bills, we are certain school regionalization would negatively impact our school system and community life overall. Regionalization would impact our town financially, and hence, more people would be driven to move out of the town. This can also hurt neighboring towns and Fairfield County as a whole. We are already hearing of potential home buyers looking to settle elsewhere due to this proposed legislation.

We would also see a negative impact at the state level. Given the state of the economy in Connecticut, creating uncertainty around the future of the quality of education state-wide will certainly not attract any businesses or investment capital to our state. This could potentially cause further depression of the real estate market as more people choose to leave the state.

I sincerely hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, SB 454/738 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Thank you,

Erica and Christopher Buse

Wilton, CT