

February 28, 2019

Dear Representatives,

As a parent of public school students, I vehemently oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874, or any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

My husband and I are born and raised New Yorkers (Bronx County) and moved to Wilton, CT in June 2018 specifically for the existing public school quality in Wilton. This decision was not made lightly as we moved from family and friends in NY but knew this was the best decision for our family. Bronx County public schools were no match to Wilton public schools and the private schools that were in our area were simply not affordable for a family with three (3) children. We researched many areas and towns before making our final decision to not only move to CT but to move to Wilton. Now, with the potential of these bills looming, we are concerned we made the wrong decision.

The forced regionalization of schools does not improve the quality of the schools. In fact, the quality of schools is not even mentioned in any of the bills. Don't you think that would be a concerning factor for parents? I believe the forced regionalization of our schools will erode the quality and the character of our local schools, which in turn will erode the quality and distinct character of the towns. My husband and I sacrificed and worked hard to move our young family to Wilton. We could have moved anywhere, but chose Wilton, CT as the place we wanted to raise our family because of the quality of the school as it is now. We already see the tremendous superiority of the Wilton public schools in comparison to our previous school in NY. I ask that you do not take this away from my family with forced regionalization.

In conclusion, my request is that you oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Sincerely,
Samantha Clarke
Wilton, CT