

Hello,

My name is Catherine Connors and I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 738, SB 457, HB 7319, SB 874, and SB 454.

17 years ago my husband and I moved from New York to Wilton with our 3 year old son and our newborn daughter. The one and only reason we moved to Wilton was for the public school system. The taxes were/are higher than we ever imagined we would pay, but we liked the people we encountered and would both continue to work and make sacrifices to raise our children in a town where education comes first.

We've paid \$361,769.02 in real estate taxes, that's a lot of money to us but we rationalized it by thinking of what we would pay for private school should we live in a town with a weak school system.

Fast forward to today, our newborn is graduating from Wilton High School in May and we need to downsize. Last week we were told by 3 different real estate agents that "people are leaving Connecticut in droves, swallowing enormous real estate losses and others want to leave but cannot sell their homes resulting in foreclosures and short sales. The news of possible forced and coerced regionalization sent this unfortunate trend into overdrive because the reason people move to these towns is for the schools."

If SB 738, SB 457, HB 7319, SB 874, or SB 454 are passed it will devastate the towns in CT that have worked hard toward a high performing school system. There is no benefit here, especially for the students.

Please vote no on SB 738, SB 457, HB 7319, SB 874, and SB 454.

Thank you,

Catherine Connors

Wilton, CT