

Jennifer Cosgrove
Wolcott Taxpayer and Parent

Good morning fellow taxpayers, concerned citizens and elected officials,

I am addressing you today to state my utmost **DIS**approval towards the S.B 738 from Senator Martin Looney and S.B. 457 from Senators Bob Duff and Cathy Osten as well as the Governor's Bill 874. This will have NO positive impact on students within the Wolcott School District.

Let me start by calling out the Senators and Representatives that have proposed these bills. Senator Looney of the 11th District (Hamden, New Haven). Senator Duff of the 25th District (Darien and Norwalk). State Representative Aresimowicz of the 30th District (Southington, Berlin). State Representative Ritter of the 1st District (Bloomfield, Hartford).

As a LIFELONG-Wolcott-tax paying resident, proud parent of a district student as well as a graduate of the district, I am troubled and sickened to say the least about these proposed bills. They will have nothing but a negative impact on my family. My husband and I are blue collared, middle class residents. We struggle financially to stay out of the low income class. We chose this. We chose to raise our son's in a small community with great schools. We chose to take the route that forces us to work long hard hours to provide for our family. Last year, when we were faced with our school funding from the state to be cut, we voted to PAY MORE in taxes to secure funding from within our community for our school district. We feel that there is no cost limit on our children's future. We chose to stay in Wolcott for the amazing schools and we constantly choose to pay more to keep them that way. As a Wolcott resident I am well aware that we have one of the lowest funded school district in the state on a per student basis. I am also well aware that we have the 3rd highest return on investment of all districts. WE DON'T NEED REGIONALIZATION TO HELP OUR STUDENTS. Forcing regionalization of schools will not "SAVE" taxpayers money. It will NOT increase test scores with OUR community. It will only negatively impact our right to make decisions on the local level. We have local government to ensure that the community's best interest. Our school district is no different. We elect our board of education members to insure our children's best interest. What's good for our students and families, is not the same for our surrounding communities. That is why we have local municipalities.

I didn't want to bring politics into this political discussion, but Wolcott has voted Republican as of lately. Our best interest is that of the Republican mind. Our surrounding towns may be Democrats, which is ok for them. It just doesn't represent our opinions. We would prefer if you allowed us to keep our local decisions, local.

To the school districts that WANT to regionalize, I believe you should. As long as the parties are in agreement, it's VOTED on at the LOCAL level, and the positives outweigh the negatives for your community.

In closing, as a Wolcott resident, I do not agree with the Day Dream of FORCED regionalization of schools. It will have no positive impact on my community. It will take away our right to local government. If these bills, any of them, pass and force regionalization of Wolcott schools, I will no longer be a resident of Connecticut and I know many others that feel the same way. Better get those tolls up first so you can collect one final tax from all of us FED up with our state government and their greed of power.

Thank you for the opportunity for my voice to be heard.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cosgrove
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