

From: Marilyn Crandall, 79 Heather Lane, Wilton, CT 06897

I Oppose Forced Regionalization of Schools in Connecticut  
**BILLS: SB 738 - SB 457 -SB 874**

**I am writing to express my strong opposition to forced Regionalization of Schools in Connecticut.** I believe that enacting forced regionalization will destroy the excellence in our schools, which is the reason why so many people choose to live in Connecticut. In addition, it will **not** save money.

Regionalization has been proven to decrease the quality of education. When schools are in local control residents can address the needs of our children efficiently and effectively.

My husband and I moved to Wilton for the sole reason of the excellence of the schools. During the early years my children attended Wilton Public Schools (K-12), I served on the Boards of the Parent Teacher Association and learned first-hand what was happening in our schools from teachers, parents and administrators. If regionalization were to occur this connection would be lost entirely; close connections provide an opportunity to directly support work being done.

After 15 years as a stay-at-home mom I was fortunate to be hired in 1990 as a special education teacher at Wilton High School; I had the privilege of teaching there for twenty-five years. For twelve of those years I served as the Instructional Leader for Special Education. I retired from teaching in 2015 at the age of 67. At that time I made the decision to stay in Wilton because this is my home and the community I love. This was not an easy decision because our local and state government taxes are becoming more burdensome every year.

Since these bills have been proposed, I have researched the pros and cons and can find **NO** proof that regional consolidation would improve our schools. In fact, the **OPPOSITE** is true. Regionalization results in a decline in academic performance, lower achievement scores, more absenteeism and less parent engagement.

I have lived in Wilton over 42 years. My children are grown with young children of their own. They are both considering moving back to Wilton (a town they and their spouses love) for the excellent school system. They will **not** move back to Connecticut if any of these proposed bills are voted into law.

I believe that enacting any of these forced regionalization bills will destroy Connecticut by destroying the finest school systems in the country. It will exacerbate the population exodus that Connecticut is already experiencing. I know this because if forced regionalization becomes law, the community that I love will change so much that I, too, will be forced to join the exodus out of my home, community and state. This is not said easily.

Please do not allow this to happen. **I strongly urge you to oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other effort to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.**

Marilyn Crandall

