

Re: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874

February 26, 2019

Dear Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee:

I am writing to state my strong opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874.

My husband and I moved to Wilton, Connecticut in 2001, choosing Wilton for its reputation of an excellent school system. All three of my children attended the Wilton schools and graduated Wilton High School. We were not disappointed – each of my children were well prepared for college. I have heard this from every parent I know: Wilton kids hit the ground running at college.

I strongly oppose the forced regionalization bills before the Connecticut state legislature (SB 457 and SB 738 (formerly SB 454) and SB 874). Wilton schools are strong because we, as a community, are strongly invested in them. The number of volunteer hours by parents at each level is incalculable, and a major factor in how we have been able to keep down our expenditure per student. I personally volunteered several hours each week every year I had a child in the school system. Mandating regionalization would take away all sense of community and I believe the schools would lose the level of excellence we have all worked so hard to achieve. I believe new families would not move our area, and even current families might move away – just at a time when Connecticut can least afford such an economic drain.

I believe these bills will not benefit the student, the town, or even the state of Connecticut.

Thank you considering my written testimony.

I encourage you to oppose SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Yours truly,

Pamela Docters
Wilton, CT