

February 27, 2019

RE: Senate Bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

To whom it may concern on the Education Committee in Hartford:

As a Wilton, CT resident for over 20 years and a parent of a public school student, I strongly **oppose these 3 senate bills: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874** and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public schools.

When my husband and I moved here many years ago from New York, one of the main reasons for choosing Wilton was the great public schools. We had no kids when we moved here but soon after, we had 2 children of which one has already gone through and benefited from the high quality of the Wilton Public School system.

Wilton's school quality was a driving factor in bringing us to this town & has kept us and continues to keep us here!

One day in the near future when our kids are out of the house, we might decide to downsize and move and we fear that we will have trouble selling our house if buyers think that forced regionalization will occur...the value of our house will be degraded by the notion of forced regionalization. Wilton is a great town and a great place to raise children who can get a great education but that will change if these bills pass or linger on in the Senate...and families like mine will start leaving CT, sooner than ever anticipated. The economy of CT will be negatively affected if residents start leaving the state due to forced regionalization and decreasing housing values...realtors have been hearing this first hand!

Do you have any research or evidence indicating that this will actually save money given the costs of combining resources, or any other impact you've found, that would not have a negative impact to the quality of the schools? None of these bills include even one mention of school quality.

There is great concern about the potential impact of larger school sizes, decreasing administrators and community engagement, etc. These bills will surely erode the quality and the character of our local schools, which in turn erodes the quality of our town.

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

Respectfully,

Andrea and Joe Farhi

Wilton, CT