

Hello. I am writing to express my concern regarding SB874, 457, and 738 on the topic of school regionalization/consolidation. My wife and I recently purchased a home in the town of Wilton. We chose Wilton because of the schools. Connecticut has some of the best school systems in the country. Regionalization or district consolidation seriously jeopardizes the efficacy and reputation of these schools.

Just the talk of regionalization is damaging property values. What young family would want to buy a home in Wilton now with the prospect of being forced to combine with Norwalk schools? I pay in excess of \$13k/year in taxes so that my child can attend a top 10 school in the state. That was our choice as a family - as it was for many families who choose to buy a home where they do. These bills remove that choice from us and place that decision onto a committee. This is not right.

As a Democrat, I am embarrassed that these proposals were made by Democrat elected officials. Let the towns govern their own schools. How will educational outcomes improve as a result of these bills? How will property values improve as a result of these bills? How will your constituents' quality of life improve as a result of these bills? How will the reputation of towns's schools improve as a result of these bills? How will the state of Connecticut improve as a result of these bills? I do not see an answer to any of these questions. I urge you to reject all 3 bills regarding school regionalization/consolidation.

Thank you,
Peter Friedman