

# Rebecca and Robert Grippando

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February 21, 2019

*Testimony for Public Hearings: SB 738 (Looney's Bill), SB 457 (Duff's Bill)*

Freedom of choice is our constitutional right.

Despite the high taxes and increasing mill rate, our family chose to purchase a home in Wilton, CT due to its quaint nature, welcoming community and, above all, its strong school system for our children to experience. The proposed regionalization of schools will cripple the choices we have made on many levels - including and, above all, decrease the standard of education for our youth.

Our town, once sought after to live in, has already been marked as a concern to those looking to live here. Potential homebuyers are deterred by the proposed regionalization bills - so the damage to our town is already taking effect with a subsequent impact on our property values. None of which, we as residents, asked for - rather was caused by an ignorance to the impact that these bills have on the whole of a community. Residents are prepared to move out of Wilton if such legislation is approved, which will cripple the economy of the town and well as the attractive community it has become.

Consider this a warning of future impact on the state and heed the residential cry for understanding around the absurdity of this proposal, especially for the towns and their residents with a lot to lose. It's time for some rationality and consideration around alternatives to achieving the goals at hand.

Sincerely,

Rebecca and Robert Grippando  
Wilton, CT