

February 26, 2019

RE: SB 738 SB 457 and SB 874

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to both Senator Looney and Senator Duff's proposed bill PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 which would force regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

As a parent of public schools in Wilton, Connecticut, I have witnessed first-hand the benefits of a locally run, public school. My children are educated in a nurturing environment where teacher engagement is high, individualized and student learning is understood and acknowledged and high achievement is praised.

Though i understand how economies of scale appear attractive from a fiscal standpoint, this bill attacks our most precious asset as a community and state- the quality of our schools. If approved, this bill would only further an additional outflow of residents, many of whom came to this state for schools, further eroding state revenue and worsening the state's fiscal crisis. I can speak personally to this as I moved here last year specifically for the schools and what they could offer my children, one of whom has special needs. By regionalizing with a school like Norwalk, those special programs and direct attention and development will most definitely decrease, if not go away. This will cause not only my husband and I but many other to move and most likely out of Connecticut where we are strong tax payers and contributors to the economy.

Further, I am certain that the geographical incompatibility of the surrounding towns in Fairfield County alone would increase transpiration costs, thereby negating any savings offered via economies of scale and would only succeed in eliminating local control and harming school quality.

For these reasons, I implore you for your support in opposing PSB 738, PSB 457 and PSB 874 or any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut Public Schools.

Regards,
Erin Hammock