

John Hough
Darien, CT
Re: Bills SB 738, SB 457, SB 874
February 27, 2019

Dear member of the Education Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874, and any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Our family moved to Darien, so that my daughter could attend any one of its outstanding schools. We searched for more than 2 years before finding a home that we could afford. My daughter has attended Tokeneke Elementary for the past 6 years, and my wife and I have been extremely satisfied with the education and care our daughter has received from every single teacher and member of the administration. We recently attended an orientation for Middlesex Middle School, and are confident that it will also be an exceptional learning experience for our daughter, who has simply thrived at Tokeneke.

We are deeply concerned that the proposed forced regionalization will have a tremendously negative effect on the children of Darien. A merger with other towns' schools threatens the quality of education and level of individual attention that Darien schools have worked so diligently to achieve. It is an outrage that a highly successful school could be punished for its achievements by being forced, without local input, to disrupt their approach and abandon their high standards of excellence.

If these bills are approved, sadly, our family will be forced to consider leaving Darien, as well as the state. We are already concerned about the trend of Darien residents leaving town due to decreasing home values, and fear that forced regionalization will have a devastating economic impact. We are among thousands of residents opposed to these bills, and if we are not heard, hope to remain in Darien long enough to voice our disapproval in the next election.

For these reasons, I implore you for your support in opposing SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874, and any other efforts to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Respectfully,
John Hough