

Dear Education Committee and Governor Lamont,
Re: SB457, SB738, and SB874

I want to register my strong opposition to any form of state driven regionalization of the school districts in CT. This is especially true for any bills like SB457, SB738, and SB874 that considers or sets up a committee that is allowed to recommend forced consolidation.

I consider myself "settled down". I'm happily married, two kids, and live in an ideal town to raise my children. I have worked at the same job for 18 years. I've got a great commute. When I moved here, I thought I would live in Wilton my entire life; that my kids would come visit me from college at this same house, and after they are married. Certainly I have this example: My parents have also stayed at their same house for 30+ years, the same house I grew up in. I really like this idea of remaining in the same community, building ties. Giving my kids a permanent location to call home.

I chose to live in Wilton after researching the quality of the school systems (highest priority!), researching the amenities the town provides, and getting a sense of the people in the town. I also looked at the town population: I myself grew up in a town of 5,000. I much prefer the closer ties and connections in a smaller population, where "everybody can know something about everybody". I like small and personable schools where I can personally get to know the administrators. My kids went to a small daycare for this reason. I went to a relatively small, private college. Not everyone belongs in a large institution.

Five years ago, I never would have worried about a bill like this passing. However, as our world of politics has become more polarized, I very much believe that these bills can be passed. I have already started looking at towns and schools outside of CT. I would like you to know the reason I will leave CT. These bills are threatening the entire reason I have moved into this town. They are threatening the quality of my kid's education. They are threatening what I thought was the permanent life and home that I have built for myself and my family.

I will wait to hear the results following the March 1st hearing, but I cannot afford to wait any longer than that.

I will run away before you touch my school.

Thanks,
Sharon Kesselman
Wilton CT