

I am writing to express my significant concern over the school consolidation bills recently proposed in our state. Specifically, the proposed SB 738 and SB 457 bills. Over the last decade or so, I believe it's fair to say the economy in Connecticut has been in a steady and continuous decline. Many companies have decided to leave the state (including General Electric, my employer) given objectionable tax treatment from Hartford. Many friends of ours have decided to leave the state as the outlook for meaningful improvement here is quite bleak. That being said, my wife and I have been Wilton residents for over 10 years and as of a couple weeks ago, had thought we would be here for the foreseeable future. We have family close by, lots of close friends still in town and in surrounding towns, and of course, a fantastic school system! Our 8 and 5 year old daughters love Wilton and love their school. However, just the threat of a regionalized school system now has us questioning if we want to live in this state long-term. It's one thing to deal with the negative economy and limited to declining employment opportunities. That is bothersome to us, but tolerable, as it only directly affects the adults living in Connecticut. We're grown-up's and can deal with the negativity. But the school consolidation will directly affect our children, which we believe is unacceptable.

I grew up in Ridgefield and have lived in our state most of my life. I remain very pro-Connecticut, despite some of our challenges. We can endure the actions coming out of Hartford that have hurt us as residents and taxpayers, but strongly feel a line has been crossed by even considering to implement policies that can have a direct and harmful impact on our kids. I urge you to leverage your role in the state government and help us to squash and/or reconsider this movement.

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