

February 28, 2019

RE: SB Bills #738, #457 & #874

Dear Legislators,

As a parent of two children in the Wilton school district, I want to register my strong opposition to the three bills concerning school regionalization being proposed by Senators Looney, Duff and Governor Lamont, as well as any modification made to these or any additional bill possibly still to come that might result in consolidation of Wilton schools with another district.

When my family and I relocated here from NYC 15 years ago, it was the fine reputation of Wilton schools that clinched it for us. My children had previously been enrolled in private schools in NY and we placed a quality education at the top of the tier of our wish list while still being able to find a house in a community within about an hour's commuting distance from the city.

While we have heard the ostensible purpose of such bills is to produce needed efficiency, the state appears to already have data proving the falseness of this premise, and actually demonstrating that adverse effects often ensue when consolidation is implemented: <http://ctbythenumbers.info/2018/07/09/k-12-school-district-regionalization-may-do-more-harm-than-good-analysis-finds/?fbclid=IwAR1KGpAJpcryObPKsRmHmpmjSfSqBBf9Thd6-j-vPWPz4dFfn65AVyz9owk>

It is also further disturbing to me to learn that there is virtually little to no support for this legislation emanating from any of our CT towns. And the issue of quality which should be paramount in the creation of any legislation affecting our schools is also completely unaddressed.

Our state already has a problem with people and businesses fleeing in droves because Hartford policies have proven so burdensome, it is not worth it to stay, all while our real estate values continue to decline. This move would put the nail in the coffin for those of us still here. The answer to solving Hartford's fiscal woes is to reduce unchecked spending and cut entitlements, not to penalize the towns in our state who have figured out how to offer quality schools and do so with a measure of fiscal prudence and accountability to the taxpayers supporting it.

I trust you will listen to the overwhelming majority of voices opposing this and reexamine what is truly in the best interest of ALL your constituents.

Sincerely,

Victoria Mavis, Town of Wilton

