

To: edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Subject: Opposition to SB #738 (Looney) SB #457 (Duff) & SB #874 (Lamont)

As a parent of a child in Wilton's public school system and an active volunteer in our PTA, I strongly oppose SB# 738 (Senator Martin Looney), SB# 457 (Senator Bob Duff), and SB# 874 (Gov. Ned Lamont) and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

The reason I strongly oppose these bills is because:

- Regionalization will erode the character of our local schools as community centers negatively impacting the community involvement which is key to keeping our schools, children, and community thriving.

- We moved to Wilton from Pelham, NY three years ago. The key deciding factor for choosing Wilton CT was for the top-rated, community-supported schools. For us, the school is the center of our community and has helped to engage our family in CT. If those schools were to be regionalized they will suffer and the quality of education will be compromised. We would no longer have a tie to this town or the state as NY State has much better higher-education options. So if these bills were to pass we'd leave CT as would many other families having a devastating impact to CT's already weak economy. CT lost a lot of businesses in the last 5-10 years and if our schools deteriorate a lot of people would move to neighboring states with a better quality of life and options.

- Particularly concerning is that none of these bills mention school quality so it seems the detrimental impact to the school and towns with excellent systems has not been evaluated.

I ask you to please oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Robin McCorry
Wilton, CT