

February 26, 2019

Dear Sirs/Madams:

My wife and I moved to Connecticut in the mid-80s to start our careers in lower Fairfield county. We lived in Stamford for a short while and then moved to Trumbull where we have resided since 1992. We raised our family in Trumbull and moved here primarily because of the great reputation that the school system had. It prepared all of our daughters well for college. One lives in Manhattan and has a great job. She is a business school graduate of UConn. Another will be moving to Manhattan upon her graduation from the business school at the University of Indiana. Our youngest currently attends Miami of Ohio. Speaking of Trumbull, I cannot stress enough that you should not mess with a school system that is clearly not broken. The school system is what the town is proud of and it keeps home values stable. I fear that the proposed bills SB 738, SB 457 & SB 874 will have a negative impact on not only a town's sense of community but also home values.

When I started my career, I was one of the early recipients of the new State Income Tax. I really didn't mind it because although I was making less money I felt that it was for the good of the State and would do good things. When I fast-forward 32 years all I see is that the State has basically turned into an economic basket case. Successive regime changes have done little to incentivize businesses to re-locate here or even stay here. Little has been done to reign in costs in the public sector (or costs in general) Pension, post-retirement benefits and other entitlements are unrealistic and unsustainable. Nobody stands up to the unions and we all pay the price. Taxes continually go up and I keep paying a bigger share for the pleasure of driving on crowded crappy roads. In only a few years I will be retiring and me, along with many of my peers, are seriously considering retiring out of state. There are a diminishing number of reasons to stay which is unfortunate since Connecticut is such a beautiful state. Regionalizing the schools will likely have a negative impact on home values and for me would probably be the last straw.

Be smart about where you choose to rationalize costs and think hard about where the issues really lie. Don't make the same mistakes as your predecessors!!!

Regards
Stuart & Sarni Morrison
Trumbull, CT