

To Whom It May Concern,

As a recent graduate of Wilton High School, I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

My family relocated to Wilton from Southlake, Texas prior to my freshman year of high school and as my sister was starting middle school. In searching for a place to move, the quality of the public schools was the number one factor our family considered when choosing Wilton.

Wilton's public schools are at the very center of our town's culture and identity. Small class sizes, expert teachers and a vibrant sports culture are just a few of the things that contribute to the high quality of the schools in Wilton. Creating regionalized school districts would lead to larger class sizes, decreased administrator and community engagement, and ultimately lower levels of student success. Forced regionalization with surrounding towns would erode the quality of Wilton's public schools, and not only diminish the character of our schools but also of the town as well.

People specifically move to Wilton, and other towns in Connecticut, based on the quality of the school systems. As someone who would like to stay in Connecticut and raise a family, the uncertainty surrounding forced regionalization makes me question the viability of remaining in Connecticut for the long-term future.

Since graduating high school and college in Connecticut, I've watched many of my friends move out of state to find lower taxes, better jobs and greater economic opportunities that just aren't available in our state anymore. In my opinion, forced regionalization would create another incentive for residents to leave the state in search of better educational opportunities for their families.

One of the main issues I found in reading all of the proposed bills is that while they all mention possible cost saving measures, many of which have not been proven to save money, not a single one mentions increasing the quality of public education in Connecticut. If Connecticut is truly serious about enhancing educational opportunities in the state, then I believe the quality of our schools should be valued far above the possibility of saving money.

As a concerned citizen, I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.”

Thank you,

Kasey O'Brien
Wilton, Connecticut