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February 28, 2019

Senator Martin Looney
Legislative Office Building
Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

RE: SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

Dear Senator Looney:

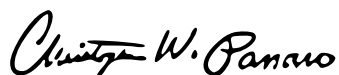
My wife and I, along with our three young children, moved to Wilton in August 2018. We chose Wilton for a variety of reasons, the most important being the quality of the school system. So far we have not been disappointed. The attention my kids have received from the faculty, as “the new students” has been nothing short of exemplary.

I have lived through many mergers and acquisitions during the past 20+ years working in private sector. The goal of most to gain market share and improve product efficiencies, while cutting costs for the shareholders. 15 years of consolidation with one employer ended in Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. **Forcing regionalization on the local school systems in an attempt to address the state’s fiscal crisis is not the answer. Nowhere have I seen or heard a valid argument that regionalization will produce better students.** Unfortunately it will do the opposite. The anxiety it will induce on the children will inflict damage. Some will adjust, but most will live their school years with added unnecessary stress and pressure. The world our kids live in is complicated enough.

Beyond the chaos for the kids, regionalization will cause immense challenges for the teachers and administration. **Merging school districts together will ultimately damage the quality of the education forcing some students to private schools, and some families to leave Connecticut altogether.**

The KIDS are what we need to think about here.

Regards,



Christopher W. Passaro