

February 28, 2019

To All Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in **opposition** of SB457, SB738, and SB874, as they relate to school regionalization.

Rather than discuss the economic impact of these bills, I'd like to appeal to the educational side of the situation. One of my top priorities, as a parent of two elementary-aged children, is to provide a solid and well-rounded education for them. My husband and I moved to Wilton, not only because it is a beautiful town, but primarily for the stellar school system. We chose to move there a year before our oldest started Kindergarten, in order to prevent moving either child to another school system at any point during their educational careers. I state this to illustrate how important education is to us. We strive to maintain consistency and high standards for our children in all regards to their upbringing, including education.

These bills pose a threat to that consistency and high standards that the Wilton school system has offered to our family. This is my primary concern. By pooling economic resources amongst geographically and socio-economically differing school systems, all of the children in those areas will be adversely affected. These adverse effects will come in the form of prolonged rhetoric to determine how to allot funds between more facilities/programs, loss of talented and dedicated staff in order to become more 'economically efficient', and reduction of programs specific to individual town needs. These are just a few of the issues that I foresee arising, however, I anticipate a multitude of other nuanced concerns will arise. These changes will cause a chain reaction, which will only be revealed once these proposals are set into motion.

These bills have not been written with consideration to improve *education* for children. They have only focused on the economic situation of schools. The proposed legislation does not provide any evidence to support that education will be improved by regionalization. All of our children deserve legislation that works to protect Connecticut's stellar educational system, while continually raising the bar. They do not deserve legislation that focuses on cutting economic corners. As a state, we can do better than these bills. Let's redirect our focus to the quality of education, rather than the bottom line.

I appreciate your time, consideration and service to our state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lindsay A. Rosenblitt  
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