

Re: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874

Dear Chairmen McCrory and Sanchez, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and esteemed members of the Education Committee,

This is to submit my written testimony on SB 457, SB 738 and SB 874.

I hereby declare, in the strongest possible terms, my opposition to SB 738, SB 457 and SB 874.

My family and I moved to Wilton from Indiana in 2001. The main reason for choosing Wilton was the excellent school system.

During our 18 year in Wilton our 3 children attended Wilton public schools. All three are/or have attended some of the best colleges, Columbia, Tulane, Pomona, in large part due to the excellent schooling they received in Wilton.

I strongly oppose the forced regionalization bills before the Connecticut state legislature (SB 457 and SB 738 (formerly SB 454) and SB 874). The rationale is as follows:

- A core value of Connecticut educational system is the importance of *local* voice and *local* control in educational decision making. Therefore, mandating regionalization (or mandating any such action that would fundamentally remake school districts) undermines the values and beliefs that guide Connecticut school systems.
- These bills are completely inconsistent with what we value as Wilton residents and citizens of Connecticut.
- There has been no evidence presented indicating this would improve educational outcomes or reduce cost.
- None of these bills include any mention of school quality.
- Forced school regionalization will negatively impact the economic rehabilitation of our state. It will deter new families from moving to CT and will encourage people to leave CT.

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

Thank you again for considering my written opposition.

Respectfully,

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