

February 26, 2019

Hello,

Testimony is attached and below as well:

As a parent of a 3rd grader in the Wilton Public School system, **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.**

I am EXTREMELY concerned about how it will inevitably harm our education system. Any consideration of mandatory consolidation of schools must start with education quality and there is no proof that larger schools are better than smaller ones. Student and parent engagement declines when schools are expanded. School consolidation can mean longer bus rides for students which leads to lower achievement scores, more absenteeism, and health consequences for students.

We will lose local control of our schools which will irreversibly change the character of our town. Our district attracts the best teachers and administrators who value small districts and personal connections as much as I do.

I live in Wilton specifically because of the schools and this decision would lead us to consider leaving the state all together. **I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other effort to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.**

Thank you,
Michelle Shia
Wilton, CT