

# HANDS OFF OUR SCHOOLS

*February 28, 2019*

**To:** edtestimony@cga.ct.gov

**Subject:** Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

As parents of a Connecticut public school student, we strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Both my husband and I grew up in northern Connecticut. I attended South Windsor's school system and Ryan attended Bristol's school system. Ryan's father, Donald Soucy, was also on the BOE in Bristol and his Aunt, Patricia Perry, was on the BOE in Southbury. We both moved back to Connecticut in the fall of 2007 (from Westchester county, NY) so that we were settled in this great state in time for our son to attend public school and have the same great small-town experience I had in South Windsor.

Since I was commuting to/from NYC at the time, our search in CT was a bit limited so I could keep my current job. Looking for that small-town feeling, including a good school system, was most important to us. That is how we found Wilton, CT.

By turning any form of these bills into law, we will lose that important part of our decision to move back to Connecticut. None of these bills prove to save us, the taxpayers, money. Any money the state will save, will just revert back to the towns to make up, which will increase our property taxes as well as not allow our towns to fix or put money into other projects that are desperately needed. These are not the ways to save money for the state or try to climb out of our deficit.

We moved to Wilton, CT, **SOLELY** for the schools and the existing school quality is what has kept us here. In fact, none of these bills even mention keeping the existing school quality.

We need to work on making CT attractive to potential businesses and families. This will not only deter people to move here, but will cause more CT families to look elsewhere to live and work.

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,  
Gyna and Ryan Soucy  
Wilton, CT

