

Written Testimony From :
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Wilton CT

Regarding Bills : SB 738, SB 457, SB 874

To the Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing to oppose proposed Bills 738, 457, and 874 because I do not support requiring or forcing certain sized school districts to join other districts. I have been a Connecticut Resident since 2001. My children attended Wilton Public Schools.

Purchasing a home in Wilton or anywhere else requires a thorough study of the town's school district. For any legislation to redistrict and regionalize education, which is largely funded by property taxes, puts homeowners and home values in jeopardy. If the education system in our state is inefficient, *hold those who make their living making it or keeping it inefficient accountable. Homeowners, parents, and students should not have to pay for this inefficiency by being forced to change where and how their children are educated.*

If we wanted a large school system, we could have chosen to live in Fairfield, Westport or Norwalk. We made a home purchase based on the school district size. Elected officials who write bills that change a deciding factor of a home purchase do not have the public's best interest in mind. Such officials are not representing the citizens of Connecticut in suggesting sweeping changes and 'forcing' this or any other policy on constituents.

In Wilton, local government has recently built a new \$55 million dollar K-2 school. Wilton residents will be paying for the debt incurred for many years to come. This is just one of many investments in our schools that residents agreed to take on. What is to become of our investments if we are required to 'join' another district? Has anyone considered this? How would you like to make an investment only to find out that lawmakers have decided that you cannot utilize your property as it was intended?

Connecticut has problems. Every problem has a solution. Please don't hurt the residents of Connecticut or the students with this legislation. The Citizens of Connecticut did not make the problems. Elected officials entrusted to keep our state safe and sound made the problems. Please find other measures to put our state back on track. These bills are another reason to drive people away from Connecticut and prevent prospective homebuyers from coming to Connecticut.