

Peter A Steixner
Olga Kay Steixner
Ridgefield CT
BILL 457, 738, and 874

My family and I strongly oppose Bill 457, 738, 874, and any other bill that aims to force school regionalization. Such legislation would clearly encroach on our town's freedom to choose the locally controlled education structure that has been working so well for us.

In 2016 my wife and I moved to Ridgefield CT so that our three daughters could have access to better schools. We understood that we would be paying more to live in Ridgefield, but knew that it would be worth every cent. Taking a blue ribbon school district such as Ridgefield and merging it with an academically inferior school district would be a major mistake.

According to research done by Howley, C., Johnson, J., and Petrie, J. (2011), their work provides empirical evidence that state-level school consolidations do not lead to substantive fiscal or educational improvement. Their research is titled "Consolidation of Schools and Districts: What the Research Says and What it Means."

The residents of Ridgefield, Wilton, New Canaan, Darien, and any other great school district for that matter, will not stand for this kind of bill. The reason that we've all been willing to pay more to live in these expensive towns is so that we can send our children to better schools. If such a bill were to pass, no one in their right mind would stay in any of these towns and continue paying what they've been paying.

This type of legislation clearly encroaches on our freedom to choose the locally controlled education structure that has been working so well for our towns. SAT scores clearly show this. Forcing consolidation upon our towns is reminiscent of a dictatorship. People should have the right to decide.