

To: Members of the Connecticut State Education Committee via [edtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:edtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

**Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB457, and SB 874**

February 28, 2019

Esteemed Members of the CT State Education Committee,

As a parent of three children currently enrolled in the Wilton School District, I'm vehemently opposed to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to force regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

Our family moved to the Wilton School District in 2010 after having lived in the Stamford School District for eight years. We chose to buy in the Stamford School District because we thought our children would get a good education.

Unfortunately, Stamford School District failed our oldest son academically. When he was in First grade, he struggled with reading and required intervention services to help try and get him on grade level with his classmates. By the end of First grade, our son was not able to read at the level required to begin Second grade. The school's response was, "the good news is he doesn't have to go to summer school." That told us that the barometer for academic success in a large school district like Stamford was, not having to go to summer school. That's an unacceptable standard for any district. Because of our son's First grade experience, and with our second son enrolling in Kindergarten the following year, we decided we needed to move to a school district where our children would get the support they needed and where academic success was, at a minimum, defined as being at grade level at the end of the school year.

In our nine years in the Wilton School District, we have worked extensively with the administration and our son's teachers to ensure they have the right support needed to be successful in their studies. All three of our children receive academic support services from the district. We do not believe that our children would have the support and resources necessary to help them with their academic achievements were it not for being in a smaller, more focused school district with the appropriate standards for academic success. In Wilton, class sizes are smaller, teachers are engaged and enjoy working for the district, and resources are available to meet our children's additional needs. Forcing the districts to merge into larger districts will result in larger class sizes, resources shared between a larger population of students, lower teacher job satisfaction, and lower academic performance, as we experienced in the Stamford School District.

Secondary to decimating the excellent education our district offers, if any of the aforementioned bills pass, they will decimate an already struggling CT economy. Residents will leave the state (and take their businesses with them) in pursuit of the quality of education they currently receive in districts like Wilton that are smaller and not regionalized.

I urge you to oppose these bills for the well-being of our children's education and futures, and that of the economic health and well-being of this state. Please OPPOSE SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other future bills that propose regionalization of school districts, forced or otherwise.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Meghan Whitman

Wilton Resident & Parent of three Wilton School District students