

February 28, 2019

Education Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
State Capital  
Hartford, CT 06106-1562  
[EDtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:EDtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

**Subject: Opposition to Bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 (School Regionalization)**

Dear Education Committee:

As a parent of a first grader and a two-year-old, I'm submitting this testimony to communicate my strong opposition to any consideration of school regionalization in our state – and specifically my opposition to bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874.

My wife and I specifically moved to Connecticut and Wilton for the high-quality of its local school system. Experience in other states that have embraced school regionalization – including Vermont and Massachusetts – have shown that regionalization does not improve the quality of education or lower educational costs. Given this, I cannot understand why any representative of the State of Connecticut would support regionalization. I urge representatives not to support these bills, or any regionalization efforts – forced, studies or otherwise.

School regionalization would hurt our kids, negatively impacts our towns and their residents, and further damage the economy of Connecticut. As an example, I own a small home-based consulting firm that is registered as a Connecticut Limited Liability Corporation (LLC). My clients are all around the US and the world, and my firm could be based anywhere. If school regionalization were to become law in Connecticut, my wife and I would likely leave Connecticut for another state with continued local control of schools. I'd close my Connecticut LLC and re-register in our new state, taking my business and state tax revenue with me. That new state might be just a couple of miles west of Wilton in New York.

The passionate wave of constituent opposition to school regionalization should be a wake-up call to Hartford that what's proposed in SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 is not wanted by those of us in the state. As our representatives, I strongly urge you to listen to us and do what's best for our children, our towns, and our economy – keeping our schools locally-controlled.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Ahasic  
Town of Wilton