

Hello,

I am writing to oppose SB 738 and forced school regionalization, and to plead with you to do the same. If you pass SB 738, it will kill this Connecticut town, Wilton, where I live. People here will age out and move away, and no new people will move in. The town will slowly die. People move to Wilton for the Wilton schools. We have no large business here. It is beautiful, but a pretty town is not enough to keep the town growing and thriving. Instead, Wilton has built a strong, high achieving school system recognized as one of the top in the state. That is what draws new families here.

If you force a consolidation of school districts so that we merge with another, lower-performing district, the performance metrics will go down, and people will stop moving here. You have no metrics showing significant cost savings from consolidation. Please do not make a change just for change's sake. It will only hurt Connecticut residents, not help.

As a parent of school age children in Wilton public schools, if we merge, I will pull my children out and send them to private school, as will many other parents here I know. Given the increasing importance of a strong college degree, I need to send them to a school with a steady history of high test scores and AP participation, successful advancement to college, and no unpredictable change going on. With that added cost, we will be forced to move out of Wilton. If you pass this bill, there will be a short-term, long-term, and significant net negative outcome here that you will be responsible for.

Please vote against SB 738.

Sincerely,
Andrea Bates
Wilton, CT