

To : Clerk of the Education Committee
From: William Bell, Wilton, CT
Date : February 24, 2019
RE : **SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874**

Dear Education Committee,

The multiple bills promulgated about regionalization of CT schools not only caught me off guard, but has prompted me to action like no other issue since I came to Connecticut in 1983. Broadly speaking, I love this area, but bit by bit a combination of policies has taken our great state from one the nation admired to one that many shake their heads about, as if to say “how could a state that was so well run be in such a slump.” Please note that I came from Massachusetts (once known as Taxachusetts), and now we have businesses leaving CT for MA!

We have enough trouble with property values, and job creation already. This would be the final straw. Even talking about a “study” that will lead to a “pilot” will drive uncertainty. The real estate market, already in disarray, will become more depressed. Most towns in our state still have good-to-great schools. Even if some costs were saved, and this is unlikely from what I have researched, it is penny wise and pound foolish when the total economic picture is considered.

Please leave the school systems as they are. The very mention of this topic has already caused damage. Towns work hard to take care of their schools, and yes we feel as if they are our schools. This will take away one of the critical points of positive differentiation CT still has going for it.

Why not take all this energy and spend it on how to bring new businesses to CT.

Everybody I know in Wilton, regardless of political persuasion, is adamantly opposed to even a whispering of this effort to regionalize our schools. This will exacerbate tensions among socio-economic groups. It will take a long time to play itself out, and it will end badly.

William Bell
Wilton, CT