

E. Charles Bowling
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2/25/19

Education and Appropriations Committees
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
EDtestimony@cga.ct.gov

Dear Education and Appropriations Committees:

I am writing in regards to the recently proposed legislation, Senate Bill 454/738, 431 and the Governor's budget bill SB 874. It is clear that these proposals aim to do 4 things: 1) force regionalization of school districts, 2) require municipalities to fund teacher pensions that they had no say in creating, 3) divert motor vehicle tax revenue from municipalities to the mismanaged state government, and 4) charge a surcharge for towns like Wilton that pay teacher salaries that exceed the state median despite the higher cost of living in Fairfield county.

The result of these proposals are clear and disastrous. Regionalization will rob the successes of outstanding school districts and degrade education standards for the entire state. Bitter attitudes will rage among parents when their once outstanding schools become dysfunctional sties. On top of this, the single greatest investment a family can make, their homes, will significantly decrease in value. And of course, increased obligations for towns will result in tax increases.

I chose to locate my family to Wilton because of the outstanding schools and the community's support for hard working responsible families. I see nothing that will motivate a community more against its political class than to destroy our children's education, damage our property values, and increase our taxes.

I strongly urge you to dump these proposals, for our sake, and yours.

Sincerely,

E. Charles Bowling

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2/25/19

Page 2

CC: Senator Martin Looney, Senator Bob Duff, Senator Will Haskell, Representative Gail Lavielle, Representative Tom O'Dea, Representative Robert Sanchez, Senator Douglas McCrory, Representative Kathleen McCarty, Senator Eric Berthel