

February 21, 2019

I am writing to strongly object to the bills #738 and #457 which would force regionalization of smaller school districts with the larger districts.

The fabric of Wilton and similar small towns is rooted in our schools—they are not just commodities, pawns in a political fiasco that was decades in the making, and not at all the fault of the people who live in Wilton, and certainly not the fault of the children who attend the schools, whose parents carefully chose, and often struggled to afford, the fine schools that Wilton has provided for its community.

The repercussions of this kind of mandate and meddling in the soul of a community reeks of a kind of government that is not American. Tantamount to taking a kid's college fund to pay for a parents' excessive lifestyle, the principle behind this proposal is simply unfathomable.

Wilton may seem like a 'wealthy' community on paper but having been in the real estate business for almost 17 years I can tell you that many people live here and make sacrifices so their kids can go to school here. We already have a mass exodus in CT thanks to the mismanagement of pensions and finances in Hartford, and even the *discussions* of regionalization of schools have diverted potential buyers to other states. Those are tax dollars that are now going to NY or NJ thanks to this abominable proposal.

You will simply be exchanging one horrible problem for another, potentially more serious one, if this course of action is pursued.

The communities where people toiled and saved and sacrificed so they could live where they wanted, in a town they chose particularly for its education, are furious.

He says he's a Democrat, but I'd say Ned Lamont hails from a Donald Trump style of leadership, and this will be the fight of his life.

Sincerely,
Julie Carney



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