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**RE: Opposition of SB 738 and SB 457**

To the CT General Assembly Education Committee Members:

We are writing to express our extreme opposition to forced school regionalization, and both Senator Looney's bill SB 738 and Senator Duff's bill SB 457.

As parents of children in the Wilton public school district, we strongly believe that regionalization will be a detriment to the quality of our highly rated schools. Wilton is a small town which attracts the best teachers, and administrators, who value personal connections and the individual performance of their students. Any consideration of mandatory consolidation of schools must start with education quality and there is no proof that larger schools are better than smaller ones. In fact, when hearing from those in states/districts with regionalized schools, the sentiment is very negative.

As young parents, and a former student of the Norwalk public schools, we chose Wilton to raise our children back in 2007 because of the schools' excellent reputation and the small, safe, close-knit community. We know almost all the students in our children's classes, as well as their parents. Some of those parents are teachers and administrators at the school. Regionalization with a town as big and different as Norwalk jeopardizes these benefits.

There is no denying the protectiveness our community, and many other communities in CT, feels about the welfare of our children, our schools, our town. Please listen to the people of CT and oppose SB 738 and any other effort to force consolidation of Connecticut public schools.

Sincerely,

Mike and Tracy Corry (Wilton, CT)