

My name is Brian Fanelli. I am a resident of Wilton, CT. I have three daughters in the Wilton Public Schools and I strongly oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools.

My wife and I moved to Wilton with our daughters approximately ten years ago. We did so specifically for the opportunity for our children to attend the Wilton Public School system. We relocated from Westchester County, NY, where we enjoyed our home, our friends and family. The only thing missing for us was the chance for our daughters to get an exceptional education. After much research, Wilton was the obvious choice. A choice that, until recently, we were very happy to have made.

We have put down roots here over the last ten years. We have enjoyed living in a smaller community where everyone has a voice and choice in how our town and our schools are run. The idea that the State could unilaterally take that choice out of the hands of Wilton residents is not only alarming, it is offensive. Are we to meekly accept that the heavy hand of the state can, whenever it chooses, invalidate the value of our vote in local elections by withdrawing decision-making authority from the very representatives we have voted into office? Even more offensive is that the well-being of our children – the students – is not once mentioned in any of these proposed bills.

There is already evidence that the threat of regionalization is causing potential residents to reconsider moving to Connecticut. And there is little to no evidence, based on previous studies, that the regionalization contemplated in these bills will save the state any money at all or improve student outcomes. The possibility of these bills being passed has caused us to strongly consider moving out of the state, thus joining the thousands of others who have made the same choice over the past five years.

The Public Schools in Wilton are the crown jewels and the magnet attracting people to move to and remain in the area. Please don't jeopardize them. I hope you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools.

Thank You,

Brian D. Fanelli
Wilton, CT