

Subject: Opposition to SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874

To Whom it may concern,

As a parent with school age children, I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senator Looney, Senator Duffs, and the Governor's proposed bills SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874, which would force the regionalization of Connecticut public schools. My wife and I lived our entire lives in New York until three years ago when we decided to move to Connecticut. The main reason we chose to move to Wilton, Connecticut was for the reputation of the town's public-school system and the quality of the school system is what will keep us here. Unfortunately, if regionalization is forced upon us by legislators that neither live with us nor represent us, we would have to revisit that commitment to staying in Connecticut and may become another family that is fleeing Connecticut and the Northeast in general.

I believe that forced regionalization will erode the quality and character of our schools, which in turn will erode the quality of our town and other towns impacted by these measures. This in turn would prevent families from coming to Connecticut, would drive family decisions to leave Connecticut, and would have a dramatic negative impact on the state's economy, further eroding state revenue and exacerbating the state's fiscal crisis. None of these bills even mention school quality! Our children currently are educated in an environment with high teacher engagement, where individualized student learning is understood and acknowledged, and high achievement is praised. Decisions for school systems should be controlled locally, by families with a vested interest in the quality of their children's education.

In closing I hope that you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, and SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott T. Fischer

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