

Dear Members of the Education Committee of the State of Connecticut,

As a parent of public school students and a 16 year resident of the town of Wilton CT, I am vehemently opposed to the proposed legislation of SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other bill that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools

My family moved to Wilton CT in 2003 from New York City; explicitly for the quality of the public schools and that is why we remain in town with 2 children graduated and 1 currently in her sophomore year of high school. How much longer we remain is up in the air based on the passage of these bills.

The Wilton School system has been instrumental to the successes of our children. Our eldest graduated from college magna cum laude, the second is currently studying Marine Science at University of Connecticut and the youngest is an honor student in Wilton High School. When we moved to CT, we were unaware that our 2 eldest children had learning disabilities that were quickly identified, and plans put in place to correct by the excellent staff. They were able to receive the help they needed throughout their school years and are both doing amazing and have bright futures ahead which; if they remain in CT will contribute to the economy of the state for years to come.

I have spoken to many people over the years who were raised in CT and have returned after having children to ensure they received the exceptional education that they did. A neighbor who was raised in New Canaan and moved to Atlanta came back to CT after dealing with the disastrous regionalized education in Atlanta, GA. Is that what we want for CT? Will our children build families and lives in CT? Our family had planned on remaining in Wilton until our youngest graduated college, what incentive do we have to remain? The direction of the state government of taxing and forcing its control over our lovely New England town is driving residents away.

If we have any hope of improving the economy of CT we have to lure residents and businesses to the state; not drive them out! When a company is looking for a state to relocate their business to; one of the selling points to their employees is the education their children would receive, with this regionalization debacle that education is no longer guaranteed anymore in Connecticut. Just the hint of uncertainty is making people rethink their decisions to move to CT.

I sincerely hope that 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 for your commitment to the service of Connecticut and please keep the future of our children in your thoughts as you make this decision.

Best Regards,

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