

February 28, 2019

Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106

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

Dear Education Committee,

I am writing this letter to adamantly oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other bill that relates or may lead to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. My wife and I have 3 children ages 9, 6, and 1 and recently moved from Stamford CT to Wilton CT. Like many other parents in Wilton, we paid a premium to purchase our home in order for our children to attend such highly rated schools. In the 2 months that our children have attended school in Wilton, we noticed a dramatic and measurable increase in the level of education they received (compared to their previous schools in Stamford). For instance, after struggling to learn to read in Kindergarten in Stamford, our daughter quickly learned to read only after 3 weeks of switching to Wilton! My wife and I attribute the improved level of education our children are receiving to smaller class sizes and the unique structure of the Wilton School System. We fear that if Wilton, like many other towns in CT, are forced to regionalize the quality of education our children receive will suffer in an attempt to potentially save some administrative costs. Additionally, there may be several other unintended consequences of passing these bills with little to no actual cost savings. If these bills are passed, not only will people, including myself, move out of Wilton which impacts the local community, but may also consider moving out of State to avoid forced regionalization of CT Schools.

My family, like many other families in Wilton and throughout CT, hopes you will oppose SB 738, SB 457, SB 874 and any other bill that relates or may lead to forced regionalization of Connecticut Public Schools. Let the local towns decide if regionalization is best for them rather than force it on the entire state.

Sincerely,

Michael Gagliano
Parent of children in the Wilton School System