

February 27, 2019

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

To Whom This May Concern,

As a parent of four public school students in Wilton, CT, 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.

The reason my family moved to Wilton in 2004 was the Wilton school system. We have had children in all of the Wilton schools, and the quality of their education has been and continues to be excellent. The Wilton public school system is what attracts and retains people to the town of Wilton and fosters the type of community for which Connecticut is known.

There is no empirical evidence that forced regionalization would improve the quality of our schools. In fact, none of these bills include one mention of school quality! How could forced regionalization possibly work for two or more communities with vastly different populations and curriculum needs? The quality of education would catastrophically change, and with the increase in bureaucracy and decrease in community decision-making and engagement, it would erode the quality of our town.

I am truly disappointed by the elected officials that support these bills as it shows a complete lack of understanding of the needs and desires of the citizens of Connecticut. Cutting costs is not a strategy for success; and these bills will undermine one of the primary strengths of our state, our public school system. These bills do not address the main problem our state faces, which is lack of revenue generation. You need to focus on bringing jobs back to Connecticut. State officials have a lousy track record in attracting and retaining companies to Connecticut. Our residents are already being forced to move out of state to find attractive jobs. Weakening the school system will only reduce the population and tax base further. I would hope as elected officials you would be focused on what is best for the citizens of Connecticut, not only today but in the future as well.

To be clear, I request that you do NOT move forward with bills SB 738, SB 457, SB 874, and any other legislation that opens the door to forced regionalization of Connecticut public schools. Any forced regionalization would be detrimental to the students and to all of the citizens (your constituents) in Wilton, and it would be detrimental to the entire state of Connecticut.

Regards,



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